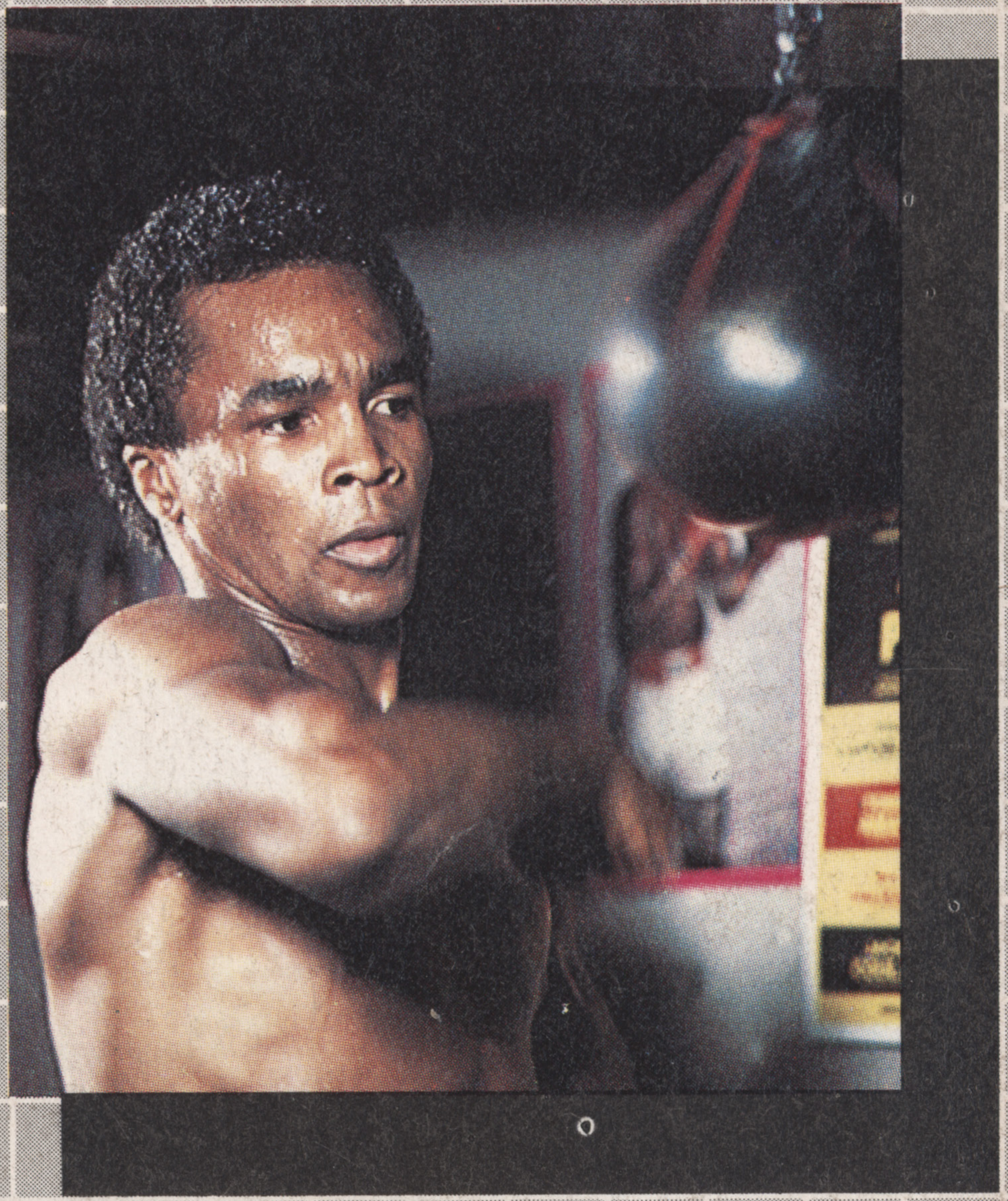
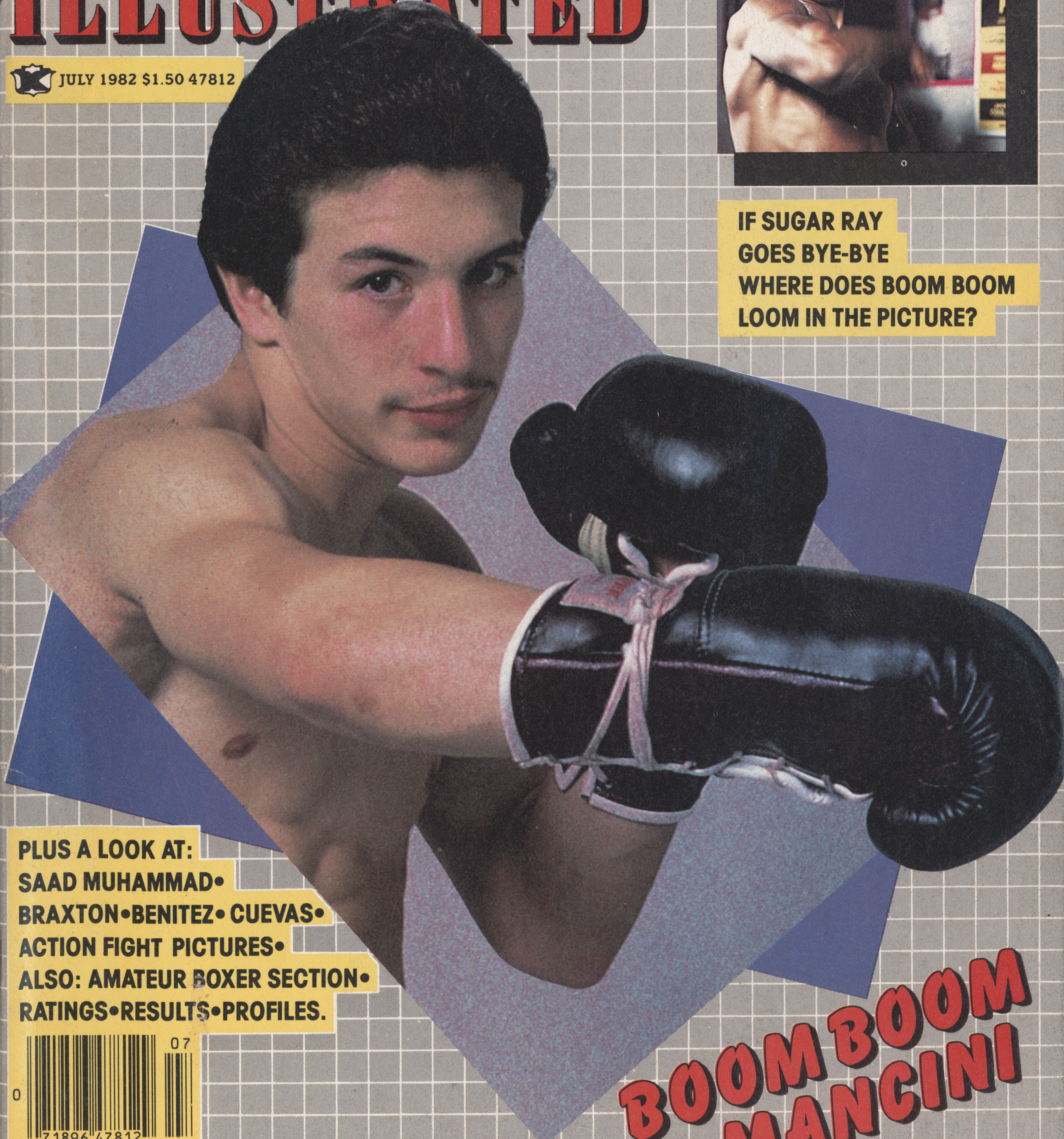
BOXING ILLUSTRATED

JULY 1982 $1.50 47812



IF SUGAR RAY GOES BYE-BYE WHERE DOES BOOM BOOM LOOM IN THE PICTURE?



PLUS A LOOK AT:
SAAD MUHAMMAD•
BRAXTON•BENITEZ•CUEVAS•
ACTION FIGHT PICTURES•
ALSO: AMATEUR BOXER SECTION•
RATINGS•RESULTS•PROFILES.

BOOM BOOM MANCINI

0 71896 47812 07

SHEVLIN BOXING EQUIPMENT

BOXING GLOVES



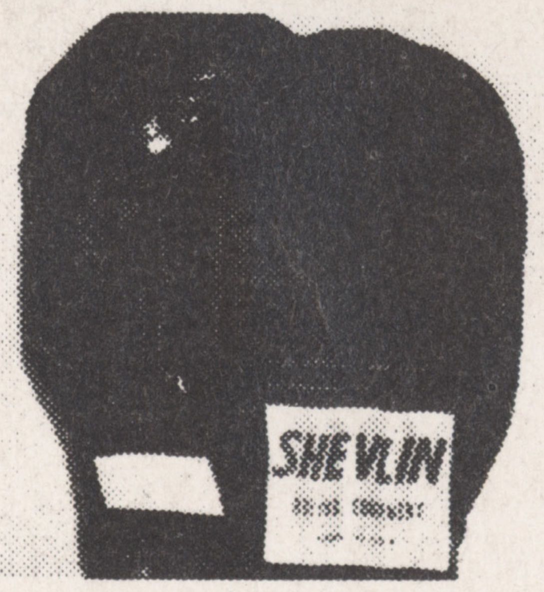
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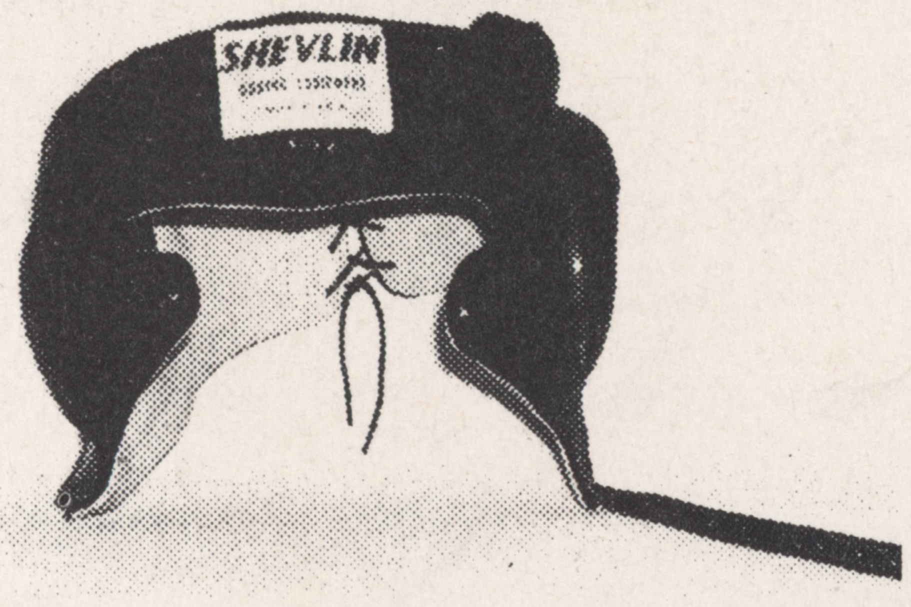


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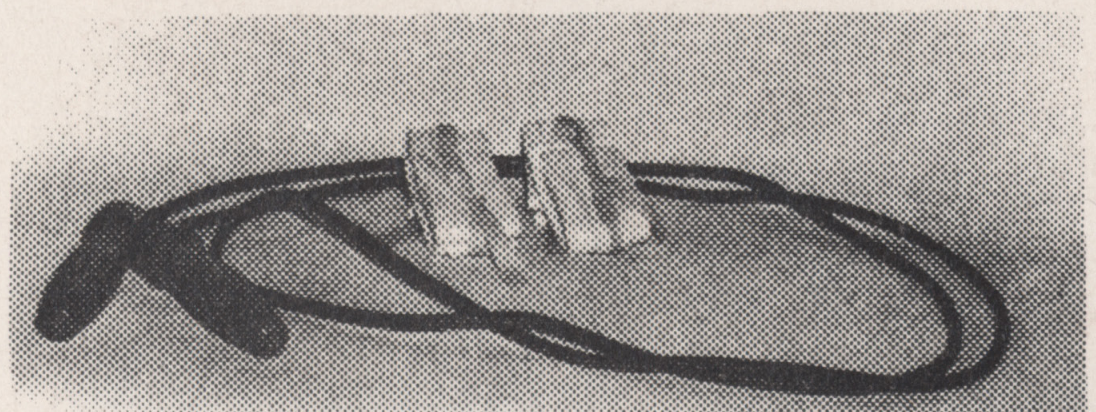
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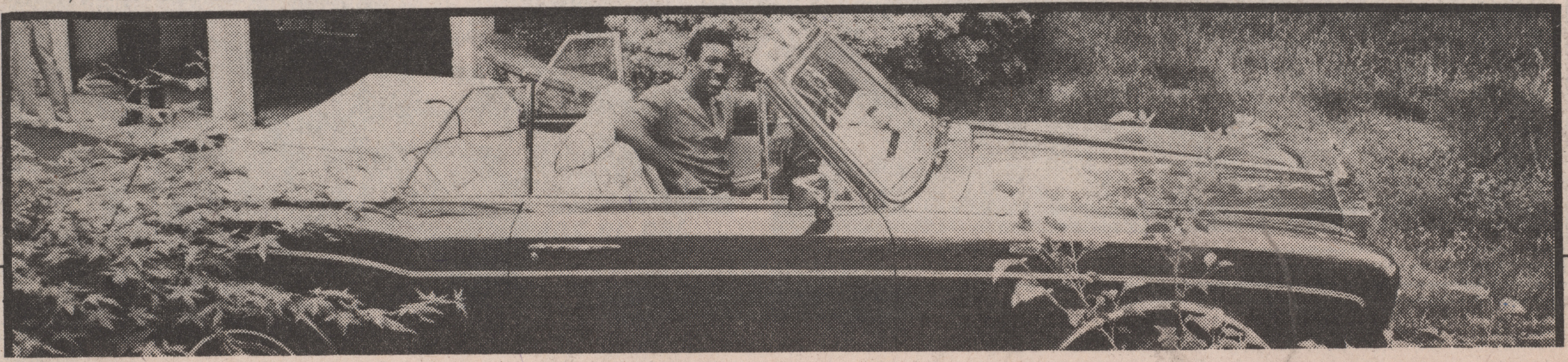
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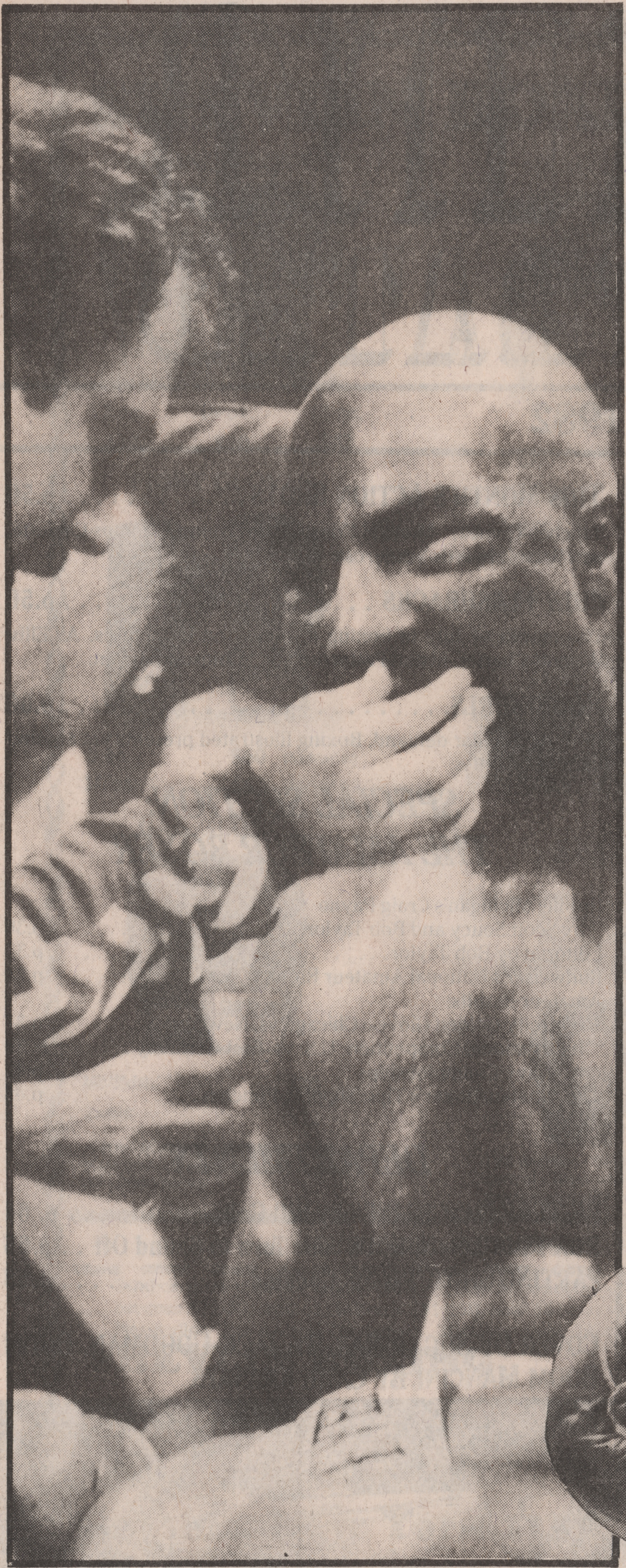
PICTORIAL FEATURES

SPECIAL SECTION: THE AMATEUR BOXER

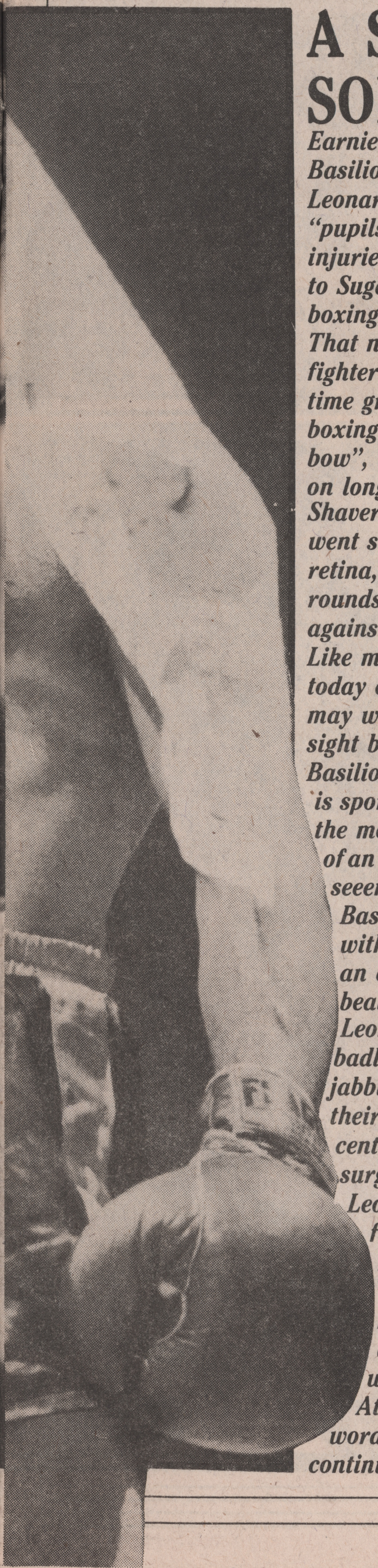
DEPARTMENTS

COVER OF SUGAR RAY BY JACK GOODMAN, BOOM BOOM MANCINI BY CARL KRAVATS



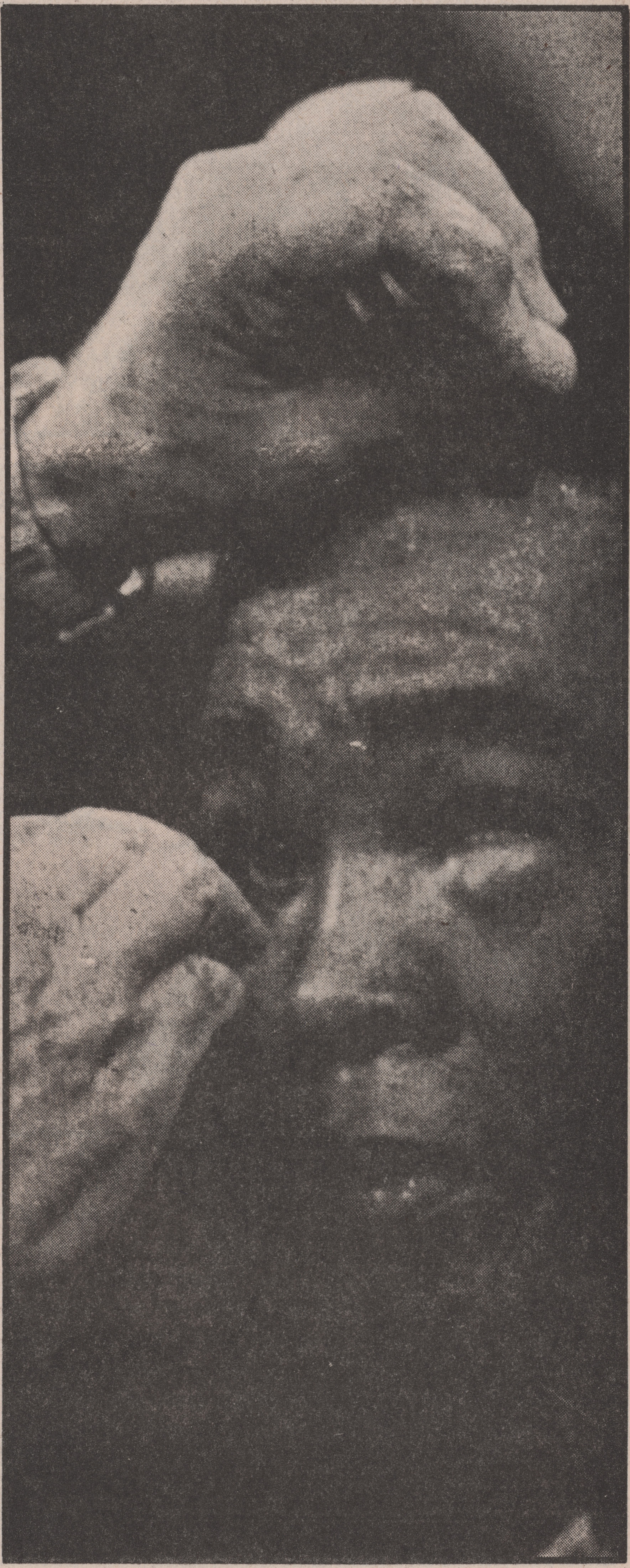


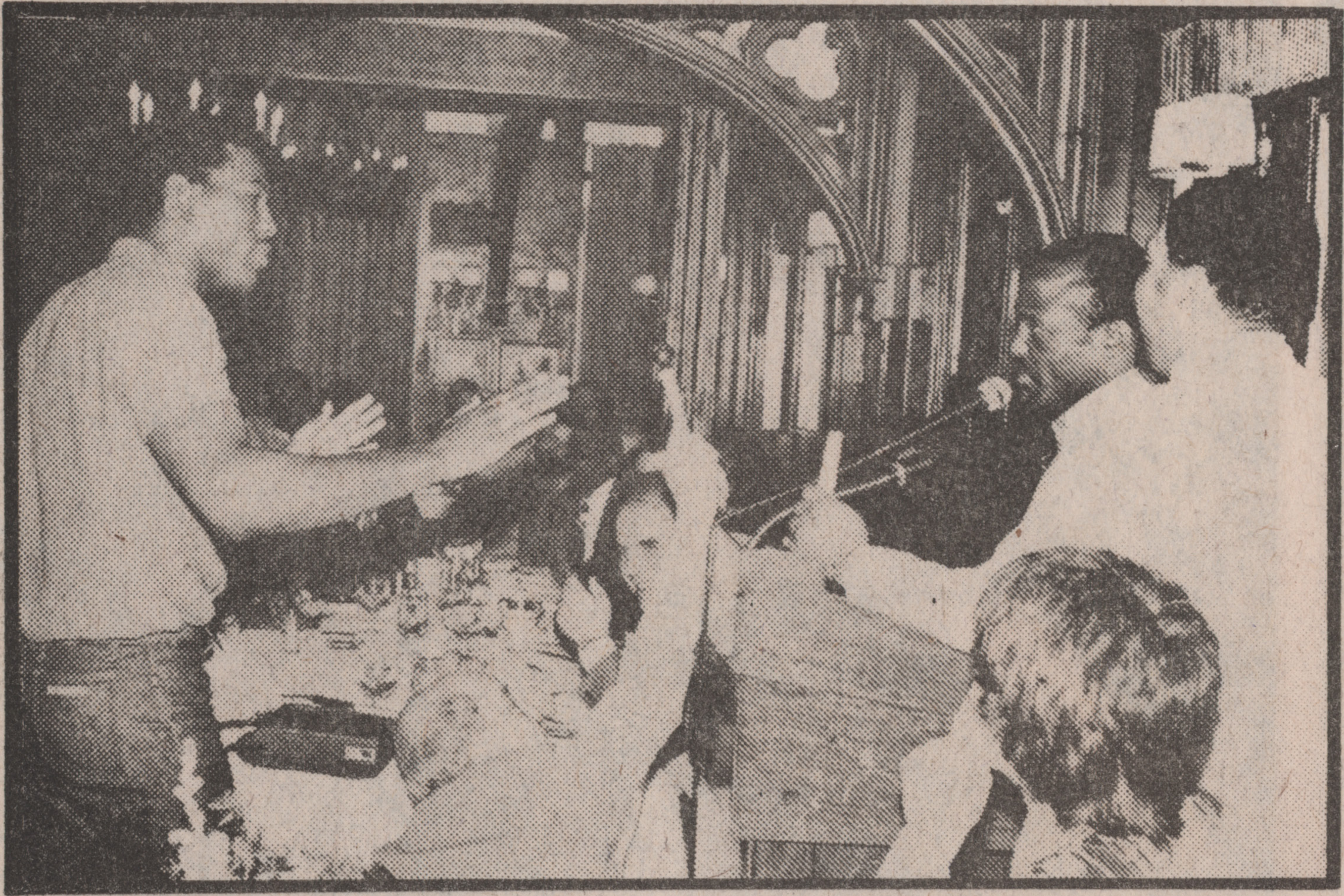


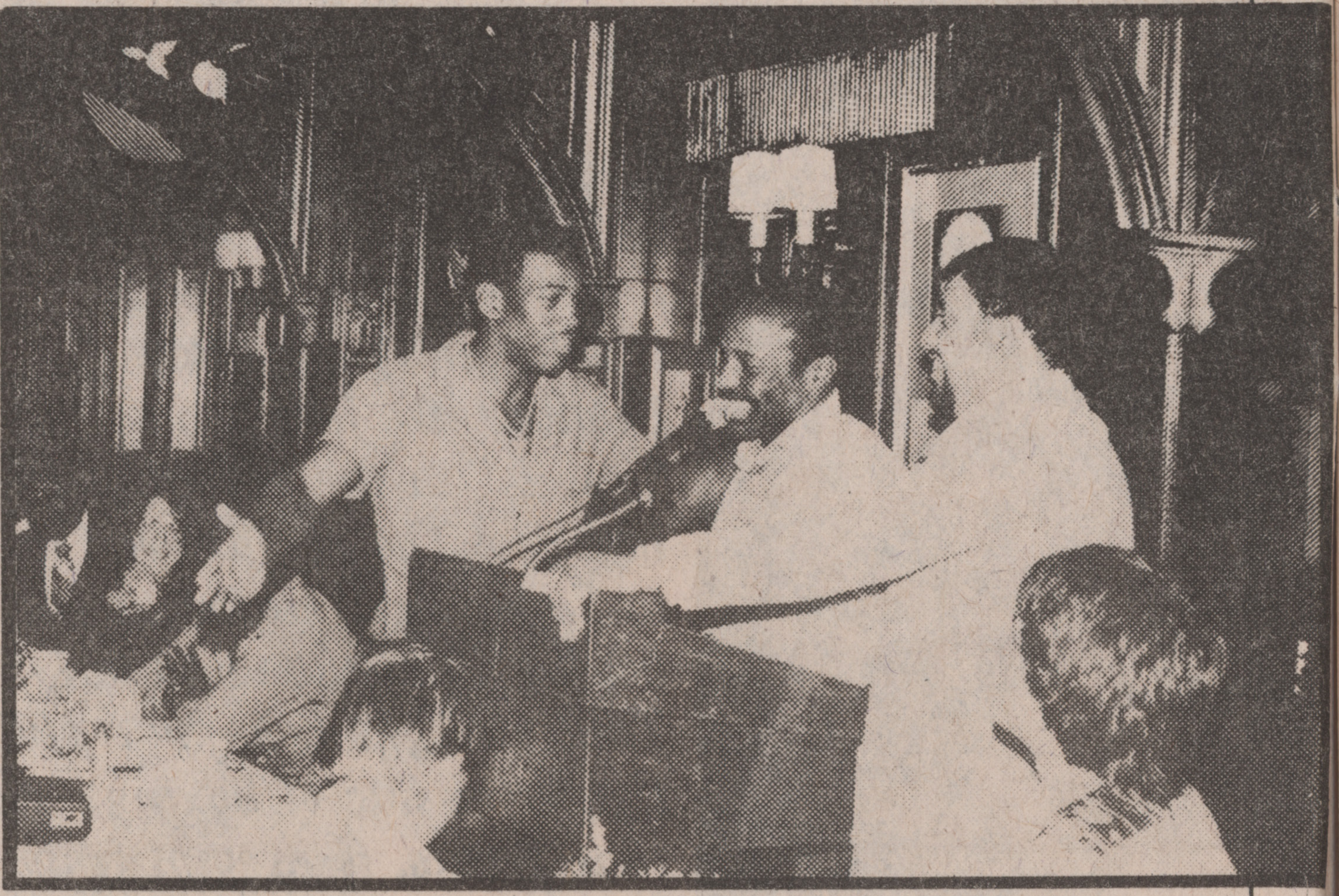


A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES

Earnie Shavers, Carmen Basilio and Sugar Ray Leonard are just three "pupils" in the school of eye injuries. The recent eye injury to Sugar Ray reinforces one of boxing's time-honored axioms: That no fighter, be he a club fighter or one of boxing's all-time greats, is exempt from boxing's version of "tennis elbow", a malady which lingers on long after a career is gone. Shavers, who recently underwent surgery for a detached retina, is shown here between rounds of his losing effort against Bernardo Mercado. Like many fighters, Shavers today can't afford to quit and may well be risking his eyesight by continuing his career. Basilio, on the other glove, is sporting what is probably the most grotesque example of an external eye injury ever seeen—in the ring or out. Basilio came out of his fight with Sugar Ray Robinson as an ex-champion and one beaut of a "shiner." Leonard, whose left eye was badly swollen by the constant jabbing of Thomas Hearns in their epic battle last year, recently underwent corrective surgery for a detached retina. Leonard, unlike Shavers, is financially set for life. And many people believe that Ray stopped boxing for the money a year ago and that his ego will not now let him quit. At press time there was no word of whether Ray would continue in the ring or not.



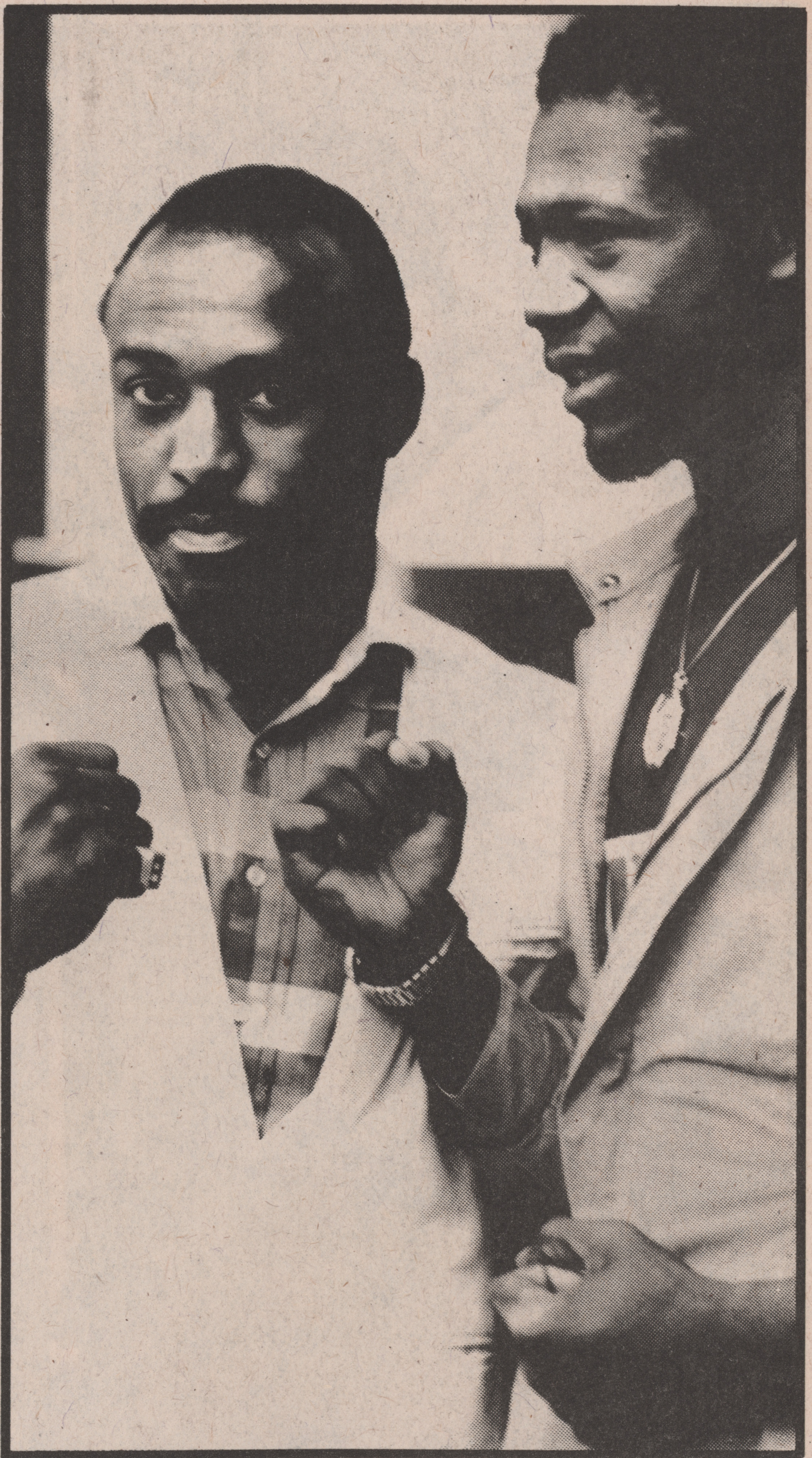












SHADOW BOXING

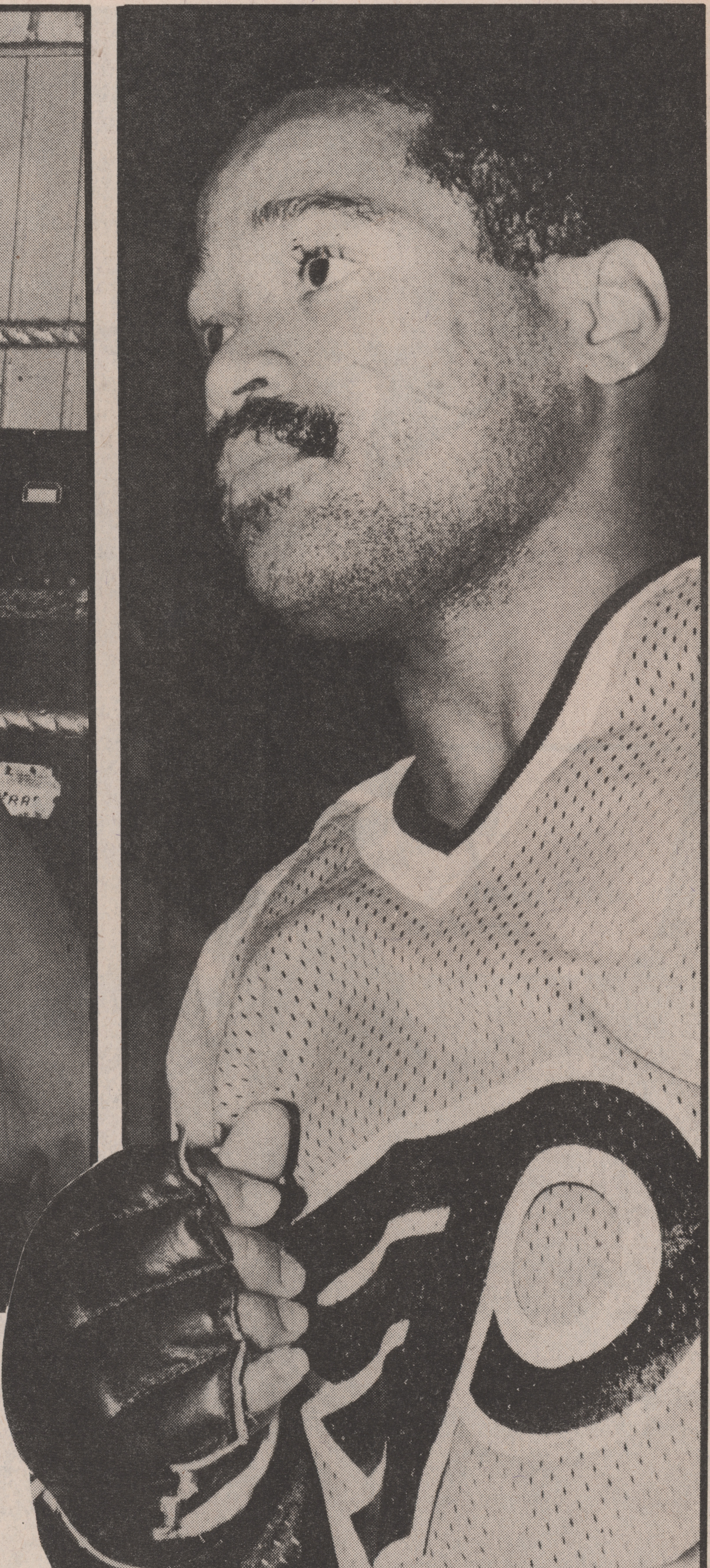
"You only fought the shadow of Saad Muhammad," screamed the former WBC light heavyweight champion at his conqueror, Dwight Braxton, during a press conference called to announce the subsequently-postponed Braxton-Lotte Mwale fight. Saad was to add, "I've got everything I want . . . A lovely wife and kid, security, but no title . . ." Braxton joined in the badinage, congratulating Saad on his recent addition, then chiding him on his recent loss. And promised him another chance. This time, Braxton said, he hoped he wouldn't send his shadow. But whatever he sent, Braxton promised it would be a Saader but wiser Muhammad who fought him, shadow or no.

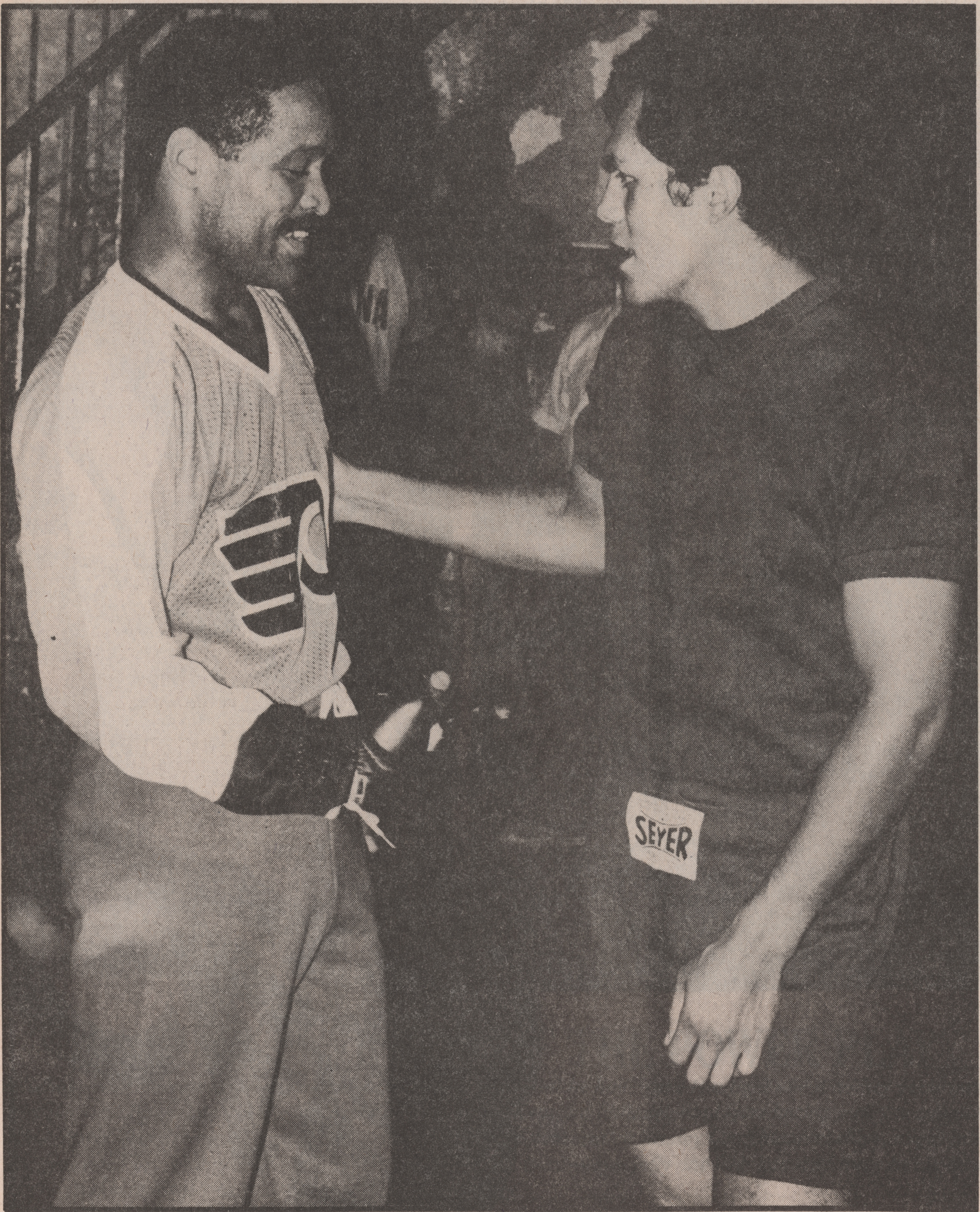


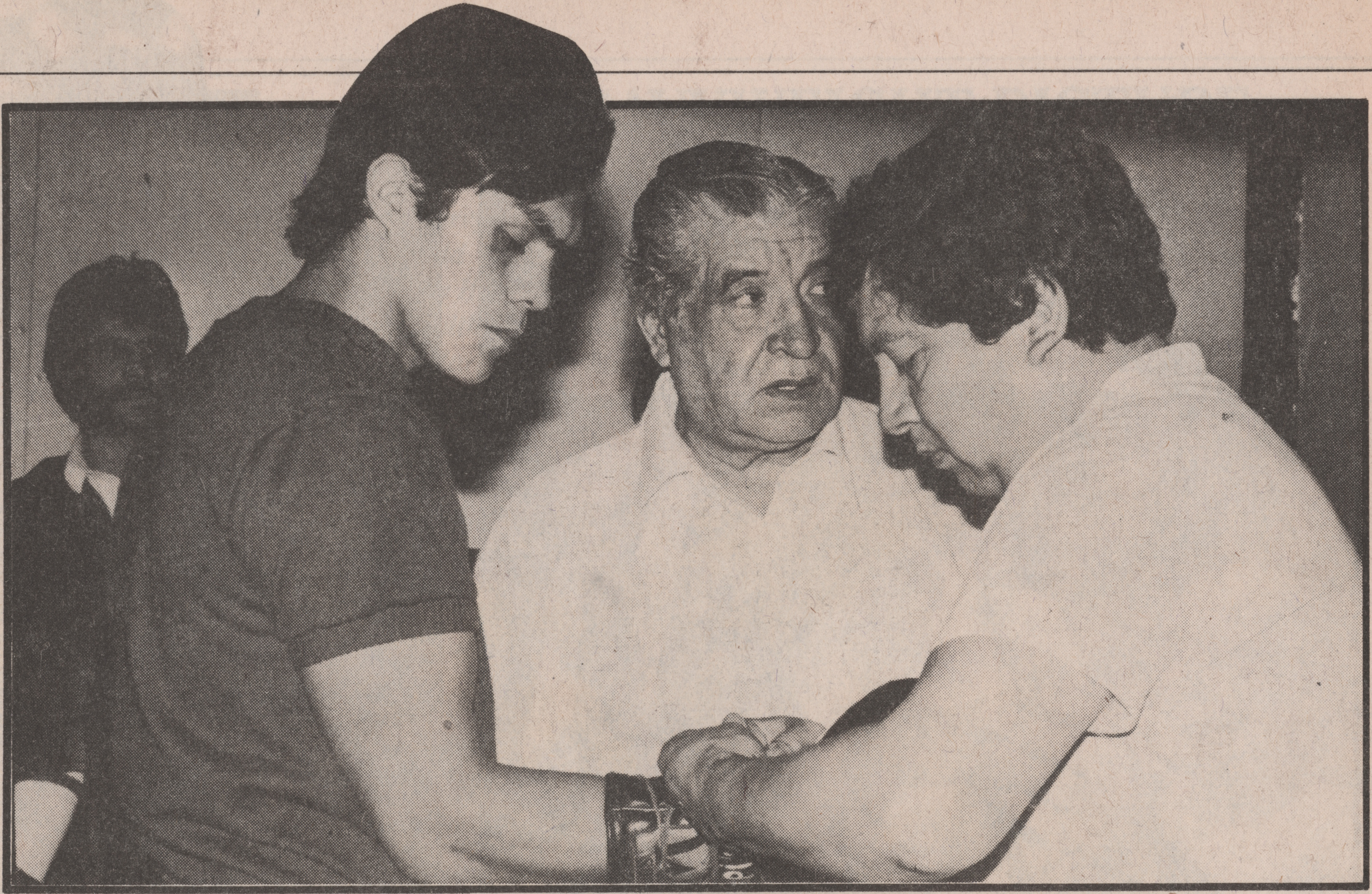
BOXING'S VERSION OF THE POWER PLAY

Perhaps remembering Rodney Dangerfield's immortal line that he had "gone to a fight and a hockey game had broken out," three-time world champion Wilfred Benitez donned a Philadelphia Flyers hockey jersey to train at New York's New Broadway Gym. The Flyers, who won two consecutive Stanley Cup championships, might just be interested in any enforcer who could help them win a third—especially one who has won three in his own right. And with his left as well.






SEYER



TWO LATIN HEROES MEET

Wilfred Benitez and Pipino Cuevas greet each other at the New Broadway Gym . . . (Above) Cuevas with manager Lupe Sanchez supervising wraps it on. Then it's Pipino's turn to get it on . . . in the ring.






PONY



THE HEAVYWEIGHT PICTURE

Two generations and three decades of heavyweights who have—and may—alter the face of boxing: Gerry Cooney greets the "Greatest" at his training camp, where Ali predicted Cooney would win his upcoming fight with Larry Holmes (left); WBC Heavyweight Champ Larry Holmes continues his rigorous training schedule despite the postponement of his bout with Cooney (center); A proud Joe Frazier looks at his chip off the old block buster, son Marvis, after Marvis won his fifth consecutive fight last year (right).











MUHAMMAD ALI LOOKS AT NEW YORK AND NEW YORK RESPONDS IN KIND.

In New York to attend the opening of the movie "Annie" and the opening or promoter Reggie Barrett's new offices, Muhammad Ali proves why he is still the most recognizable face in the world—as he stops traffic and acts as a Pied Piper.



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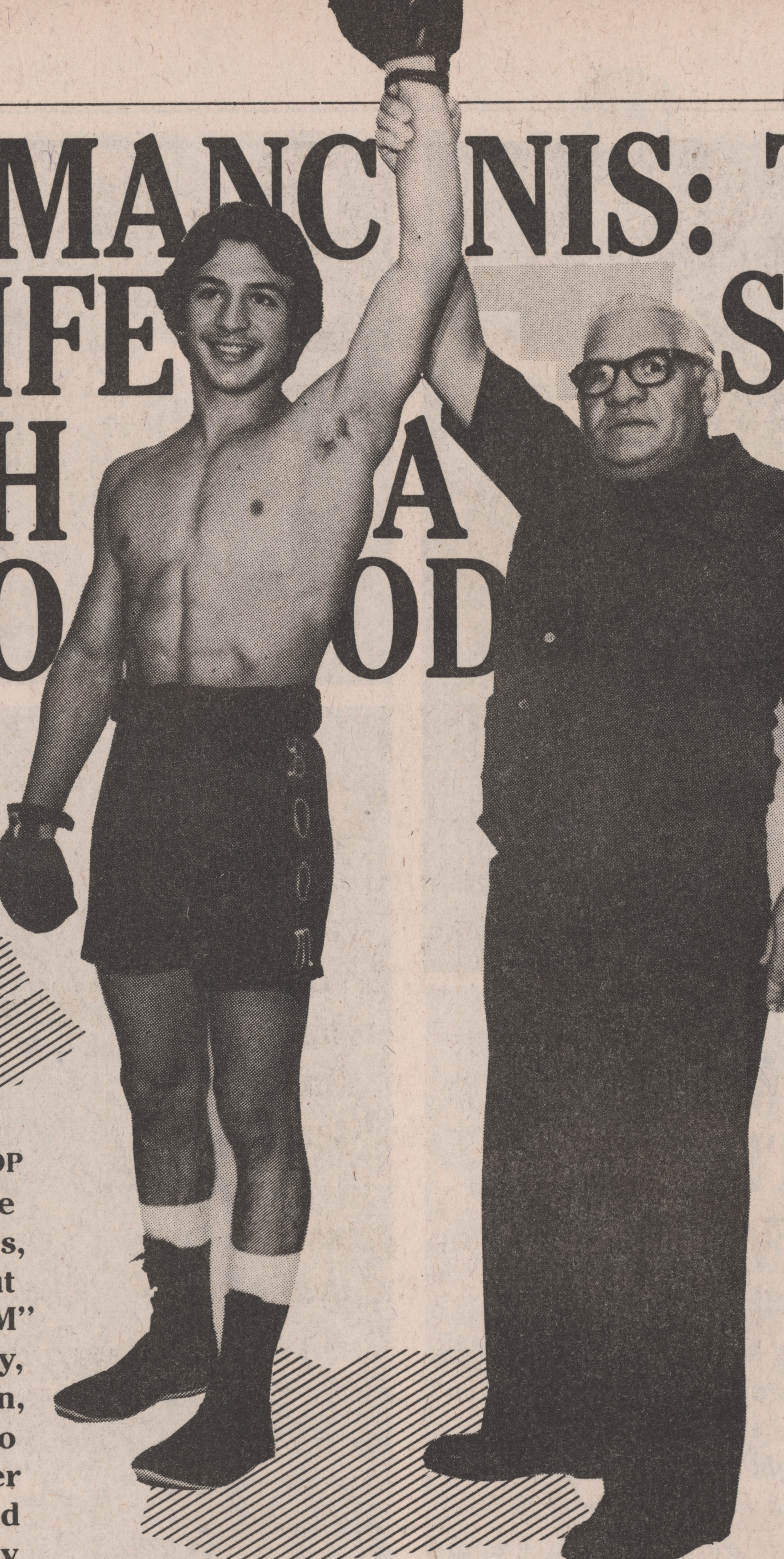
JULY 1982
Vol. LXI, No. 7

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THE MANCINIS: TRUE-TO-LIFE STORY WITH A HOLLYWOOD ENDING

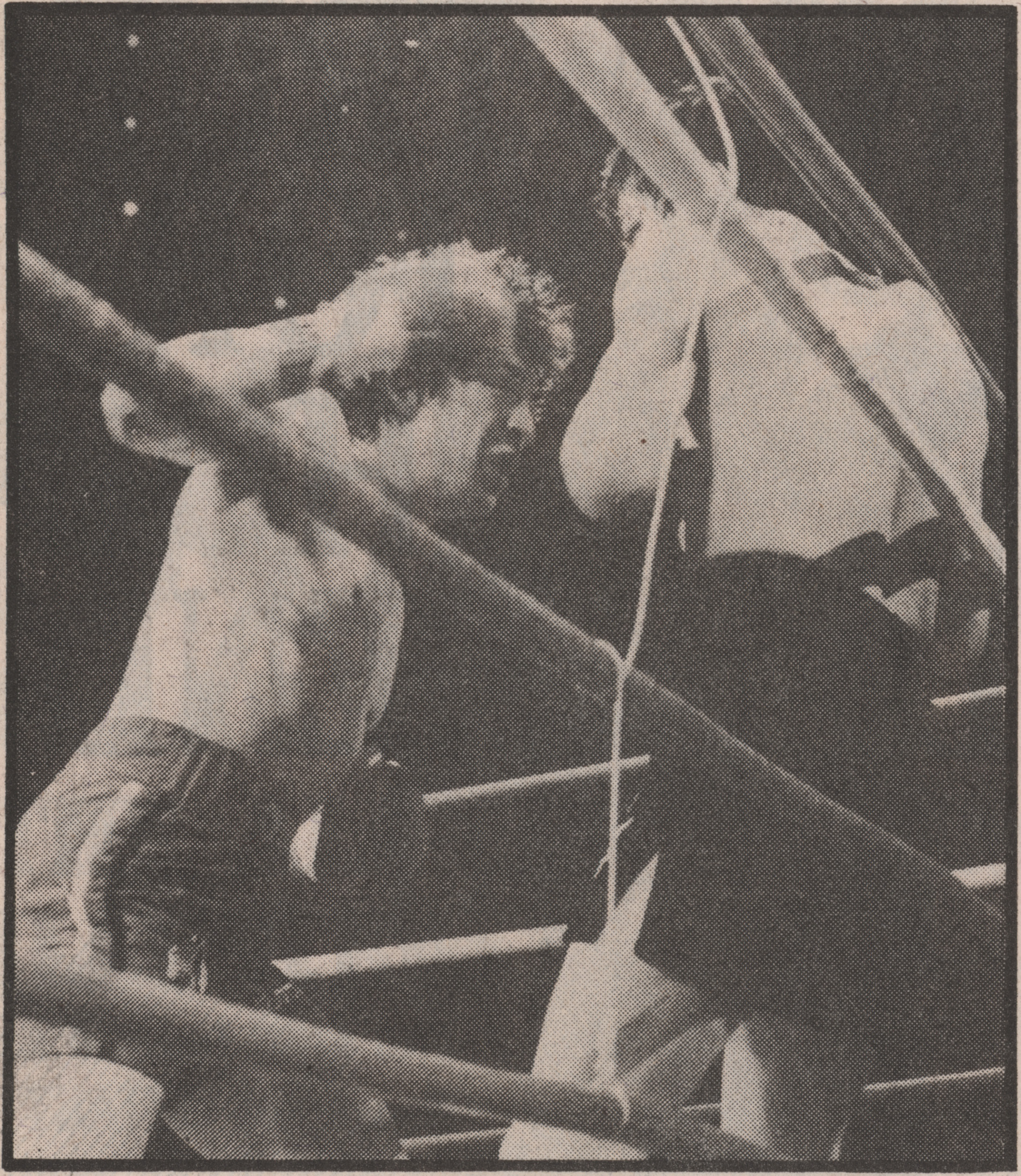


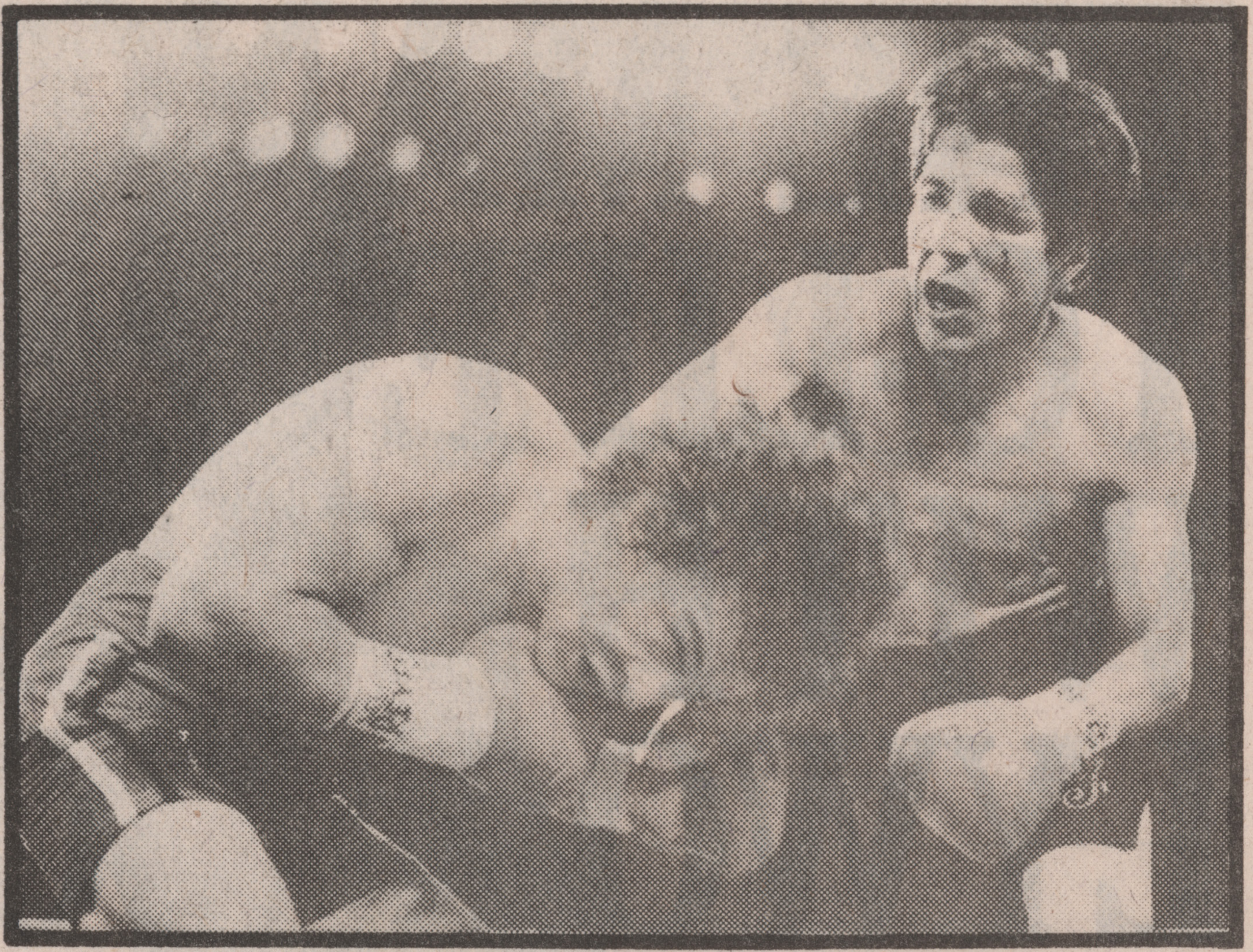
WHEN LENNY WAS A TOP LIGHTWEIGHT in the late '30's, early '40's, crowds would shout "BOOM, BOOM, BOOM" every time the gutsy, thrilling Youngstown, Ohio, native let go a punch with either hand. A fan who had seen him fight many times said of Mancini, "he was never scientific, just plain terrific."

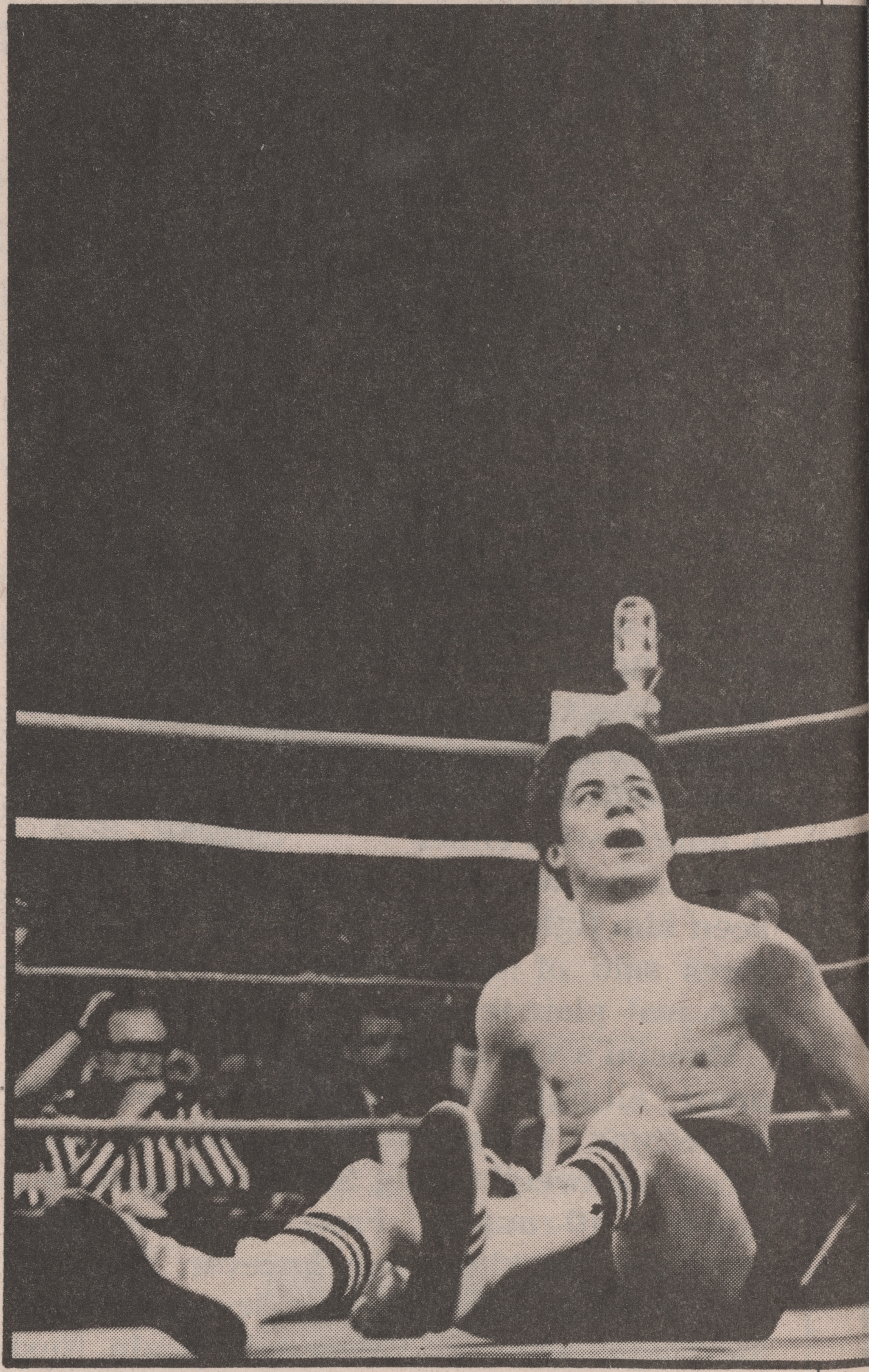
Mancini's dream, as with the dreams of nearly all fighters, was to win a world title. To become a champ. In March, 1941, Mancini faced lightweight king Sammy Angott in a non-title 10-rounder. From all accounts of the fight, Mancini won. However, the decision went to Angott. A public cry went up for Angott and Mancini to fight again. Next time over 15 rounds. Next time for the title. There would never be a next time. There was another battle Lenny considered more important: World War II. When the United States called upon Mancini, he stood up and answered the call.

"The lightweight title can wait," he had told friends. "This is one time business can wait."

Unfortunately, defending the honor of his country cost Mancini heavily. Shrapnel wounds nearly ended his life. Battling in that never-say-die Mancini fashion, "Boom Boom" recovered. But he was never again the same prize fighter. He realized the dream of winning a world championship was gone.



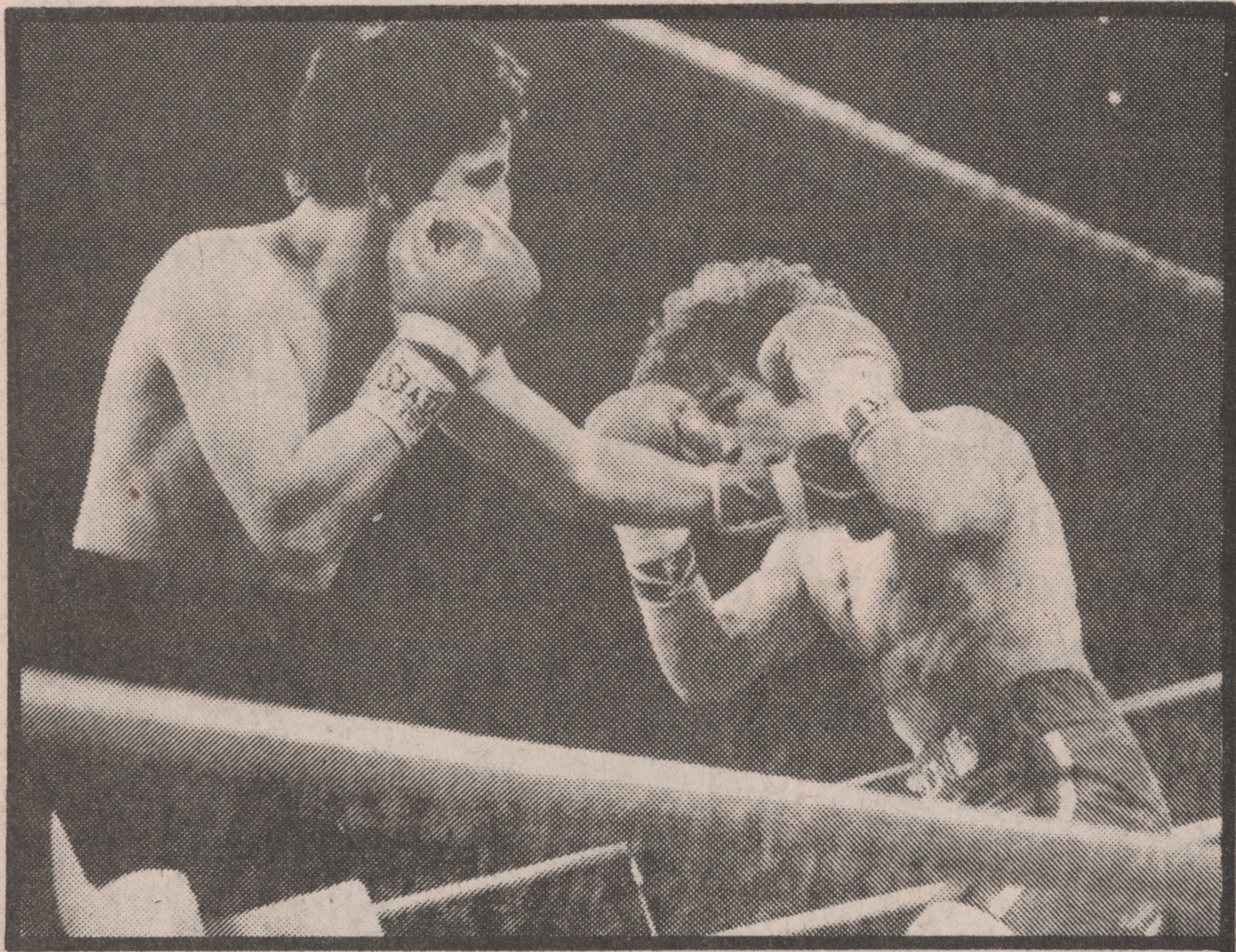


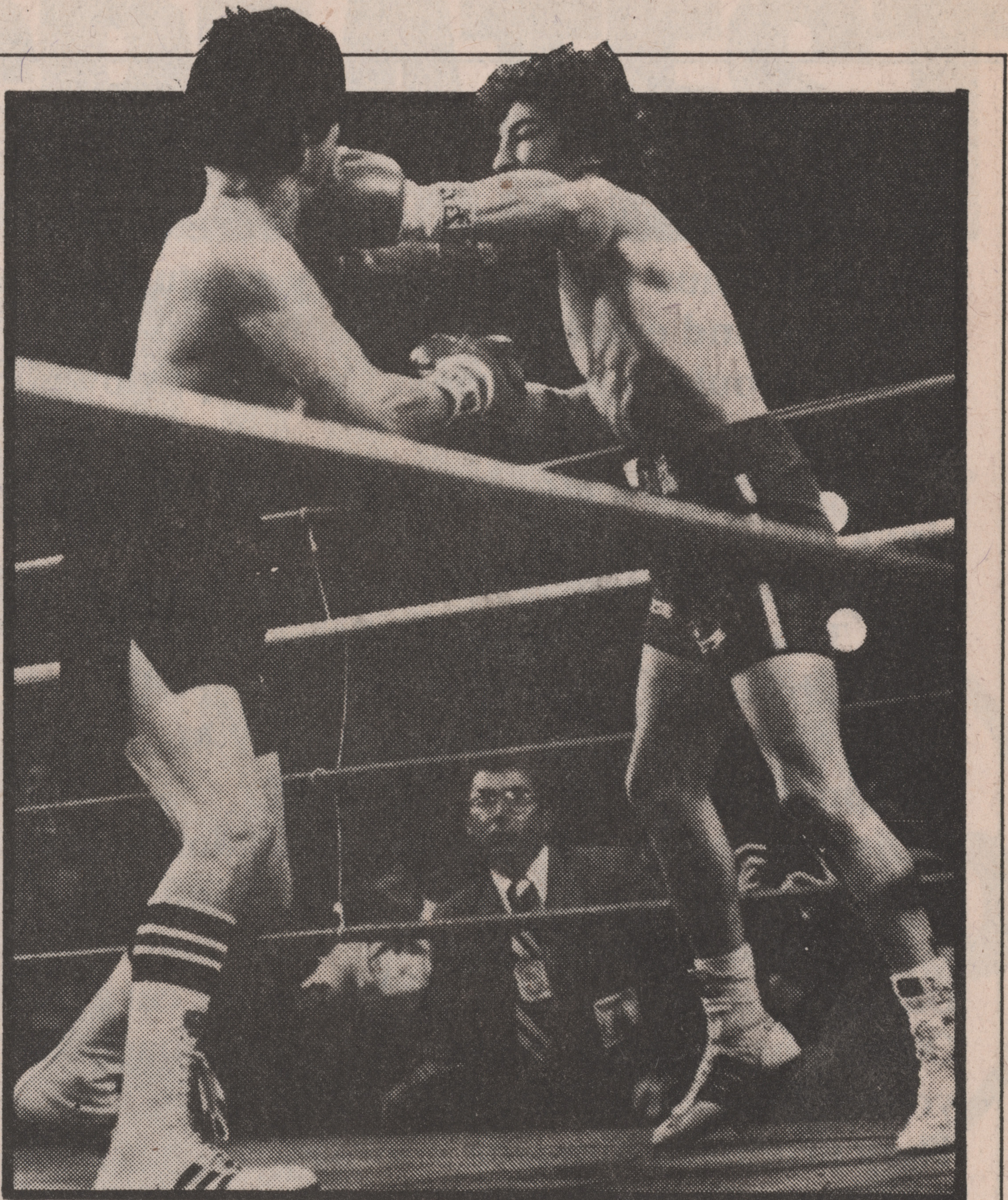


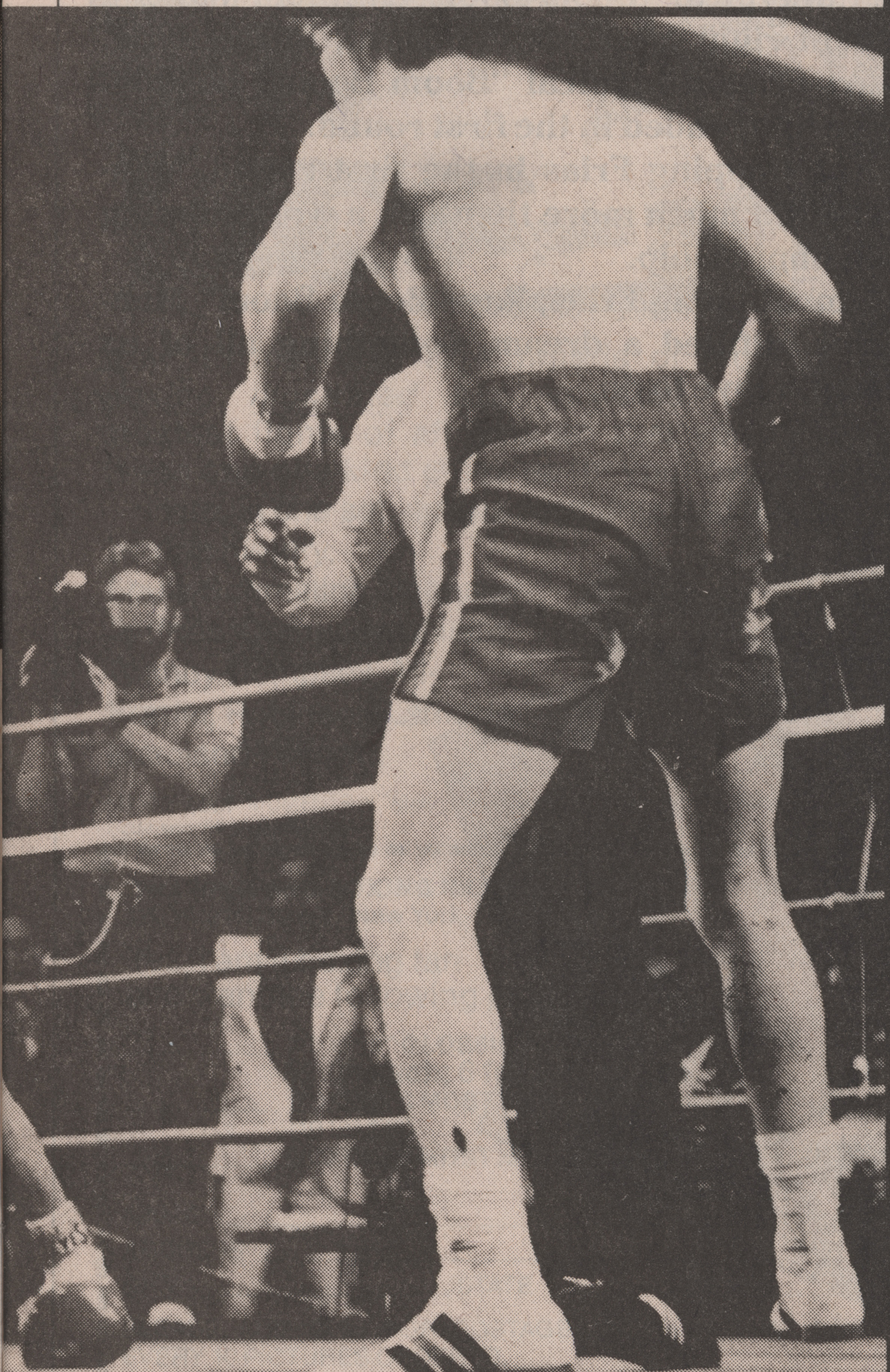
WHEN RAY MANCINI LOWERED THE BOOM BOOM

Upon beating Battling Nelson in defense of his lightweight title, Joe Gans wired home to his mother, "I'm coming home with the bacon." Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini saw "The Old Master" and raised him one, bringing home the lightweight title as well to the Mancini family—a family which had seen Boom Boom I, his father, come up short one World War which wrote "finis" his father's then-promising career. In only two minutes and fifty-four seconds of an action-packed, two-sided fight, Mancini halted the soon-to-be ex-champion Art Frias to win the WBA lightweight title, the fourth time the lightweight title had been won in the first round. Aladdin Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, May 8, 1982.

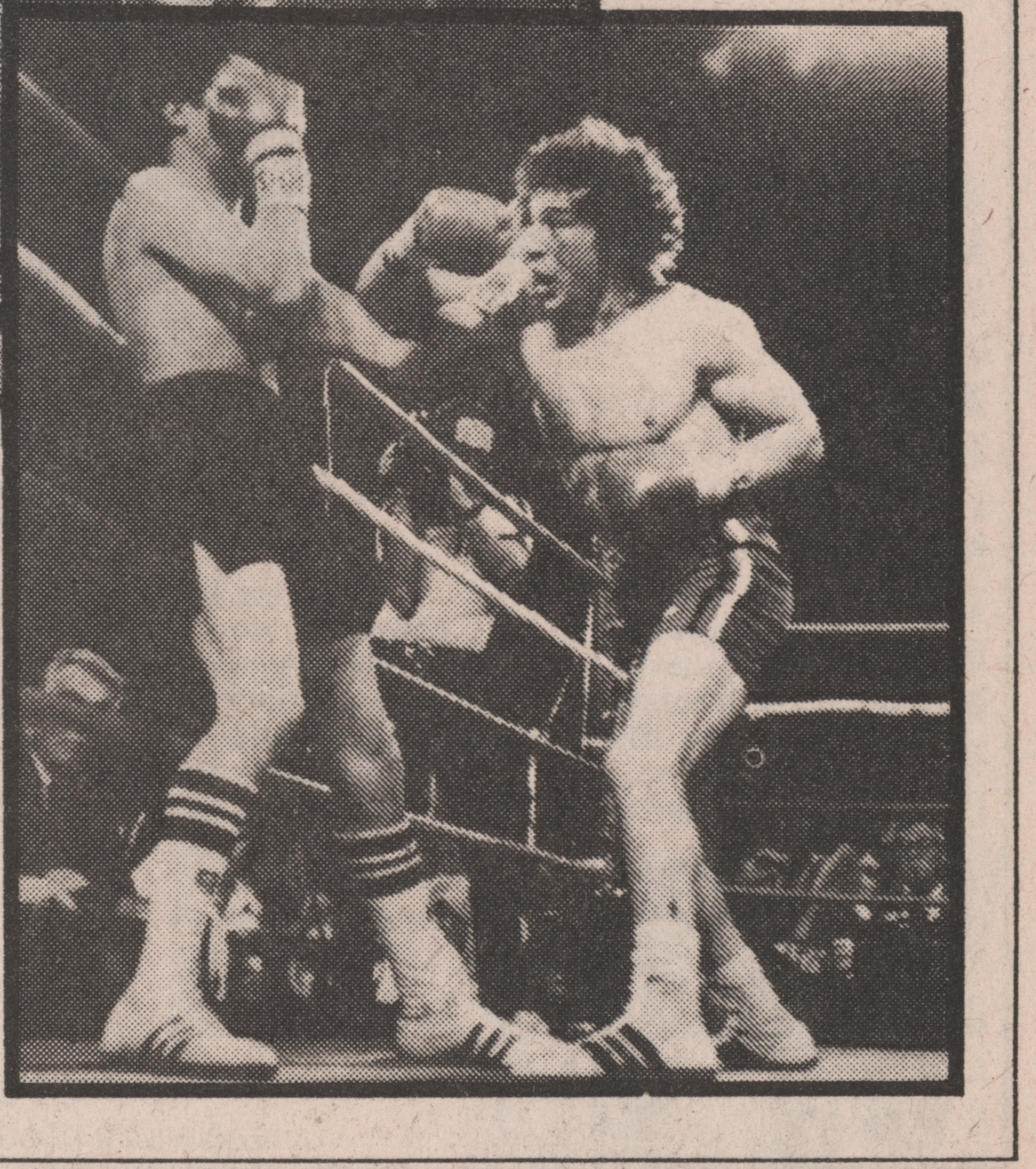
PHOTOS: HERB HERPOLSHEIMER











What he didn't know is that it was not gone forever.

In 1961, Mancini 's wife, Ellen, bore him a son, Ray. Thus unfolded a story so gushing with love and emotion even Hollywood's top writers would have turned the script down as being too "cornball."

The incredible story of the fighting Mancini's is not cornball or hoaky or contrived or a massive public relations super hype. It's true. That's part of what makes the story so incredible. The other part of the story is the clone of the original "Boom Boom" Mancini, his son, Ray.

Discovered in an amateur tournament by Murphy Griffith while losing a decision, Mancini sat down with Griffith and manager David Wolf to talk of a professional career. Other managerial teams also approached young Mancini. They promised him cars. They promised him jobs after his ring career was done. They promised him money. Maybe they all would have come through. All Wolf and Griffith promised the high-school honor student was an all-out effort to mold him into a world champion—something he wanted more than cars and jobs and money. Their promise was good enough for him. They were able to live up to their promise.

On October 3, 1981, they managed Mancini into a title fight against the living legend of a champion, Alexis Arguello. On that night, Mancini was not prepared, either physically or mentally, to dethrone a legend.

With Arguello's kind words of encouragement after the fight, and with Wolf's and Griffith's continued support, Mancini went after the WBA lightweight championship last May 8. In typical "Boom Boom" fashion, Mancini went right after his opponent, in this case, Art Frias. In typical "Boom Boom" fashion, the fight ended in the first round.

In stopping Frias in the first round, Mancini did much more than win a world boxing championship.

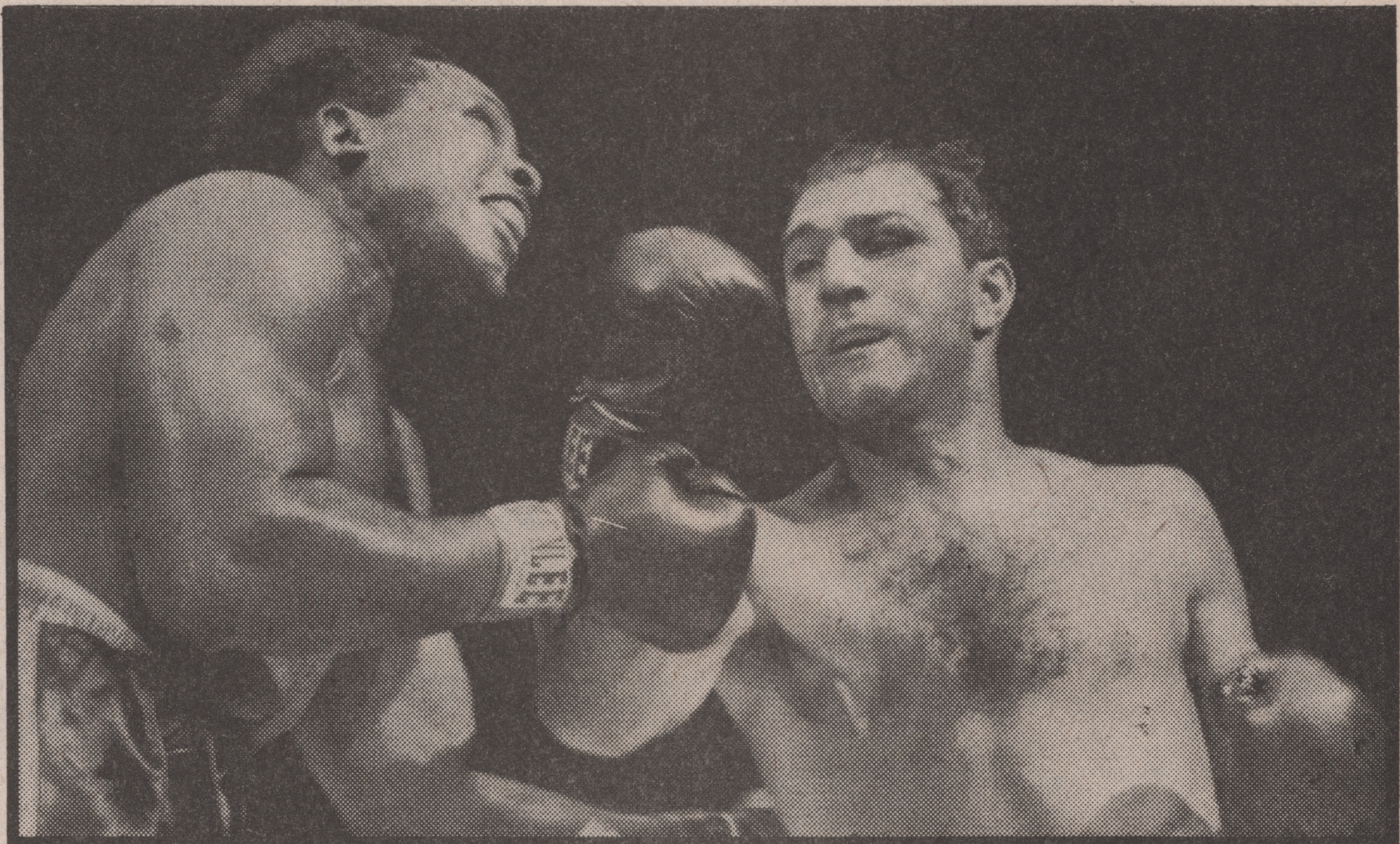
In stopping Frias, Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini fulfilled a dream, something all of us would love to do. □





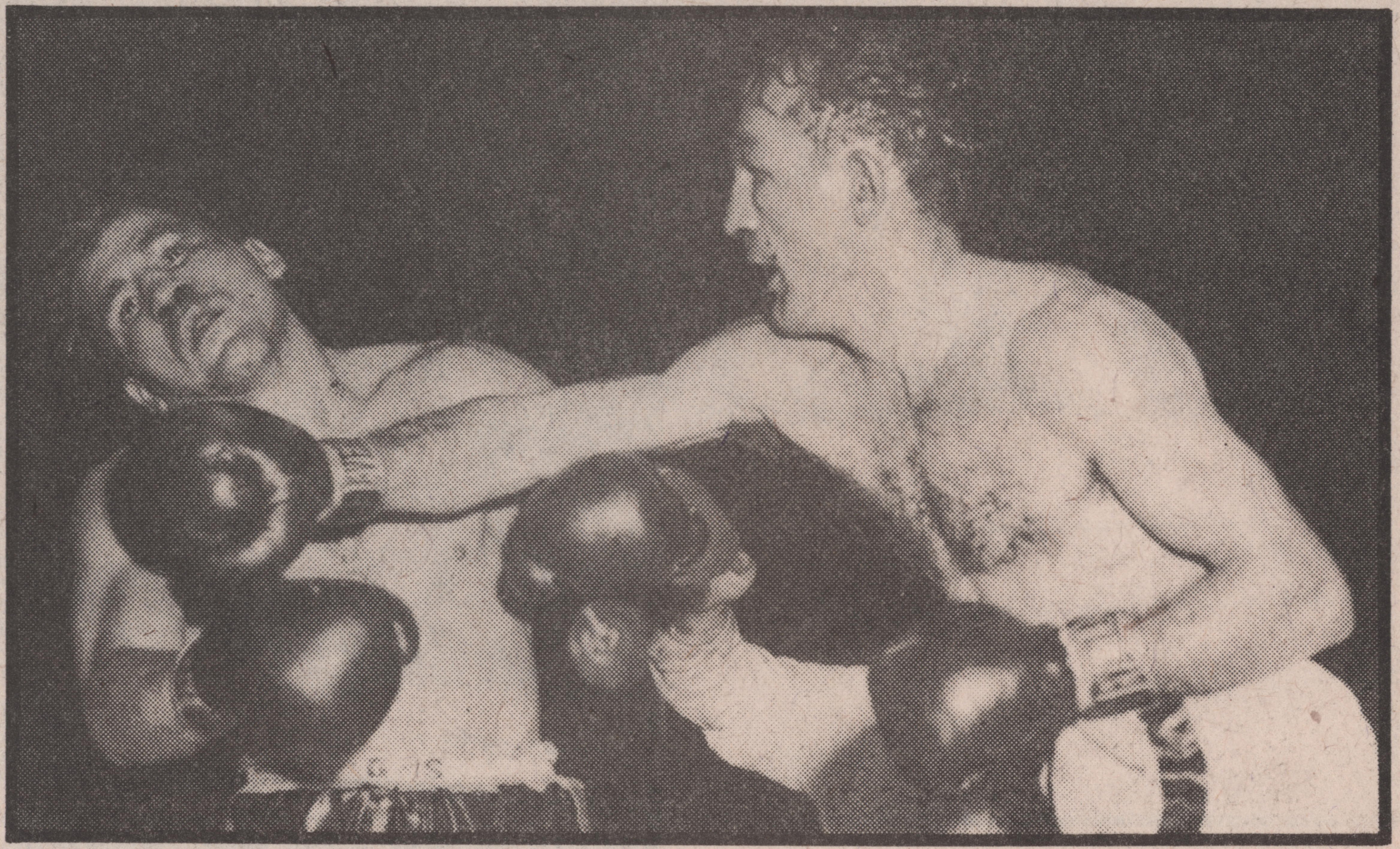
TONY DEMARCO VS. CARMEN BASILIO - 2 ALL-TIME THRILLERS.!
..JOEY GIARDELLO..
DUNDEE
YC CORBETT 3.
Tony CANZONERI ..WAS A WORLDS CHAMPION. 4 TIMES.!
-Rocky- -MARCIANO ....A RING CHAMPION WHO WAS NEVER BEATEN.!
JOHNNY DUNDEE ..WAS THE FIRST ITALIAN IDOL.!
FRED -APOSTOLI- ..ONE OF THE BEST..
$1,000,000
WILLIE PEP WAS A BOXING WIZARD.!
COLORFUL ROCKY GRAZIANO ..WAS A TREMENDOUS ATTRACTION.!
TOUGH.. Jake LaMOTTA
LEW. AMBERS
JOEY Maxim

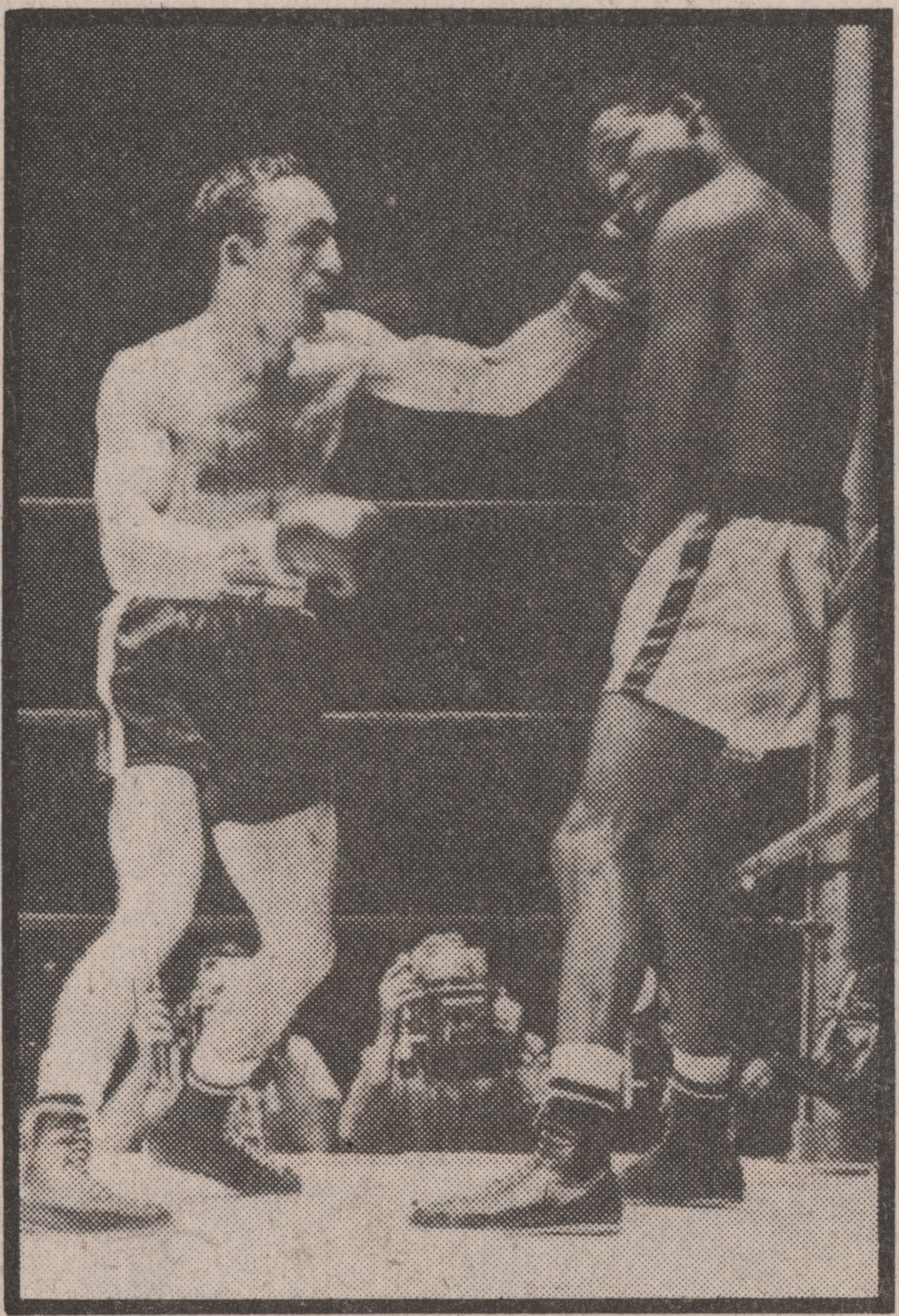
Great Italian Champions



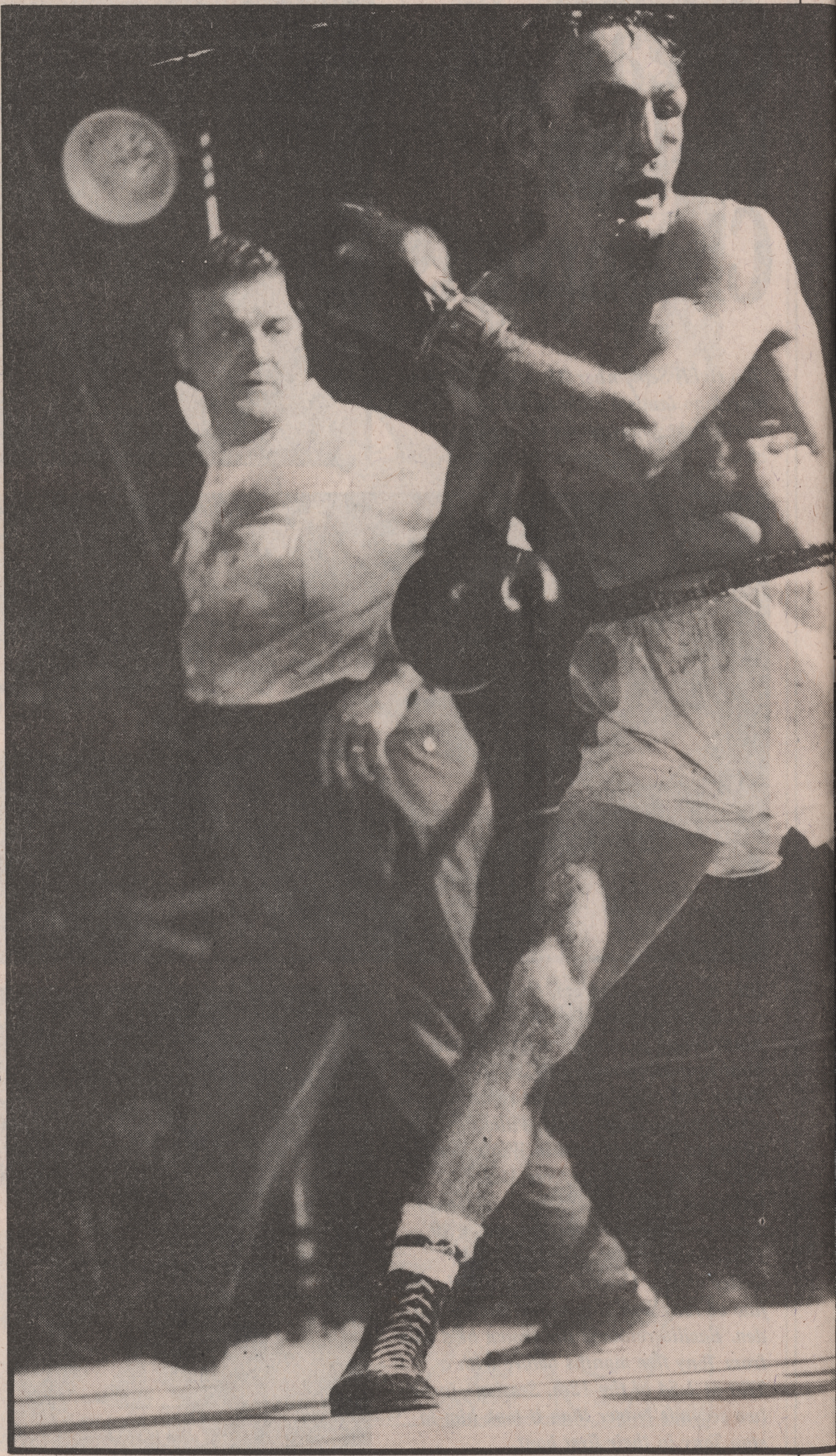
(Top right) September 21, 1955. Rocky Marciano lands a right to the jaw of world light heavyweight champion Archie Moore in defense of his heavyweight title in Yankee Stadium. Rocky, down in round two, kayoed Archie in 1:19 of the ninth round in what proved to be his final contest. (Above) July 25, 1950. Bobby Bell takes a straight right from world featherweight king Willie Pep in a 10-round non-title bout in Wshington's Griffith Stadium as referee Marty Gallagher looks on. Pep won via unanimous decision. (Bottom) November 30, 1955. Another right—this one from welter champ Carmen Basilio—finds the jaw of Tony DeMarco at the Boston Garden. Basilio retained the crown he'd won from Tony five months before with a TKO at 1:54 of the 12th. Session—just two seconds longer than it took him to stop Tony in their first bout.

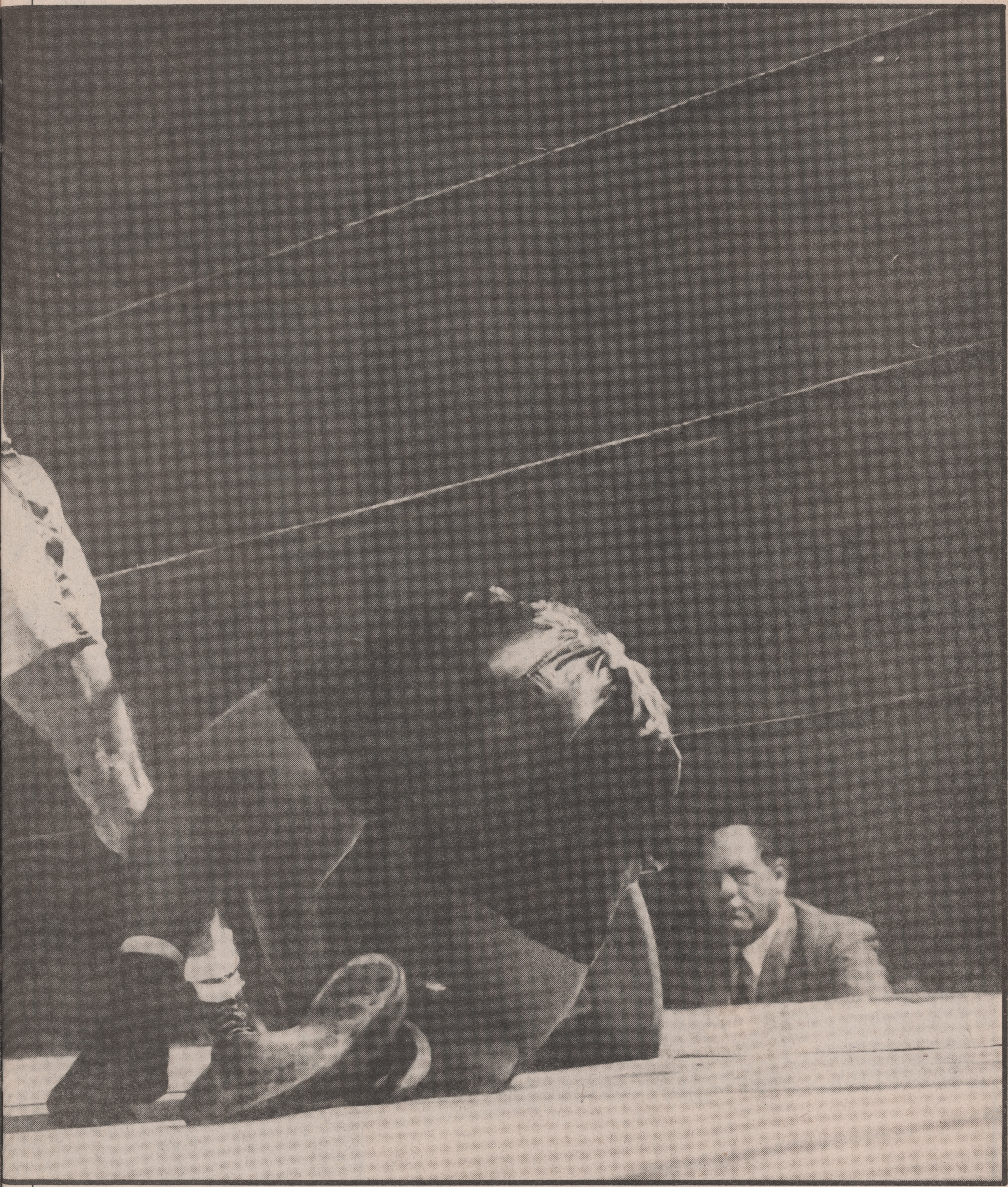




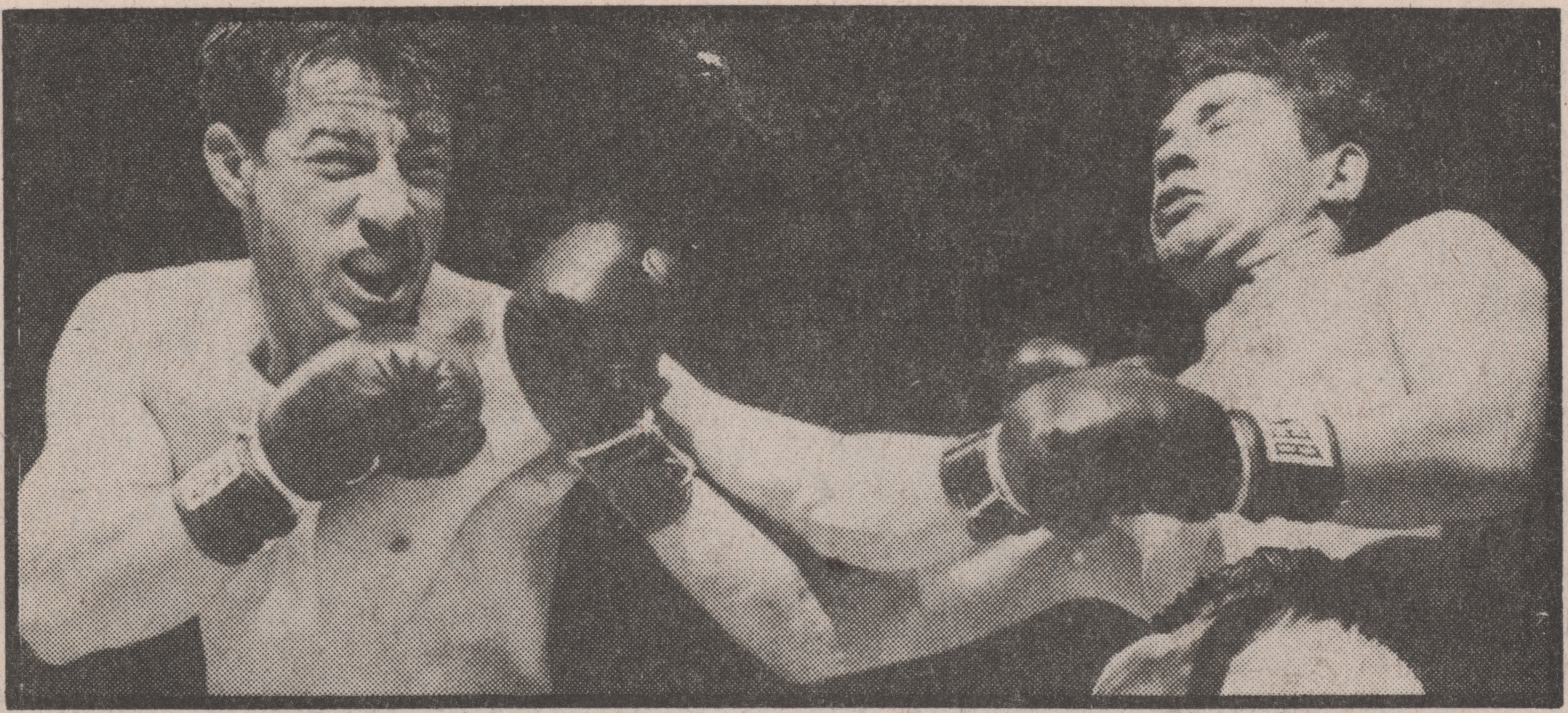


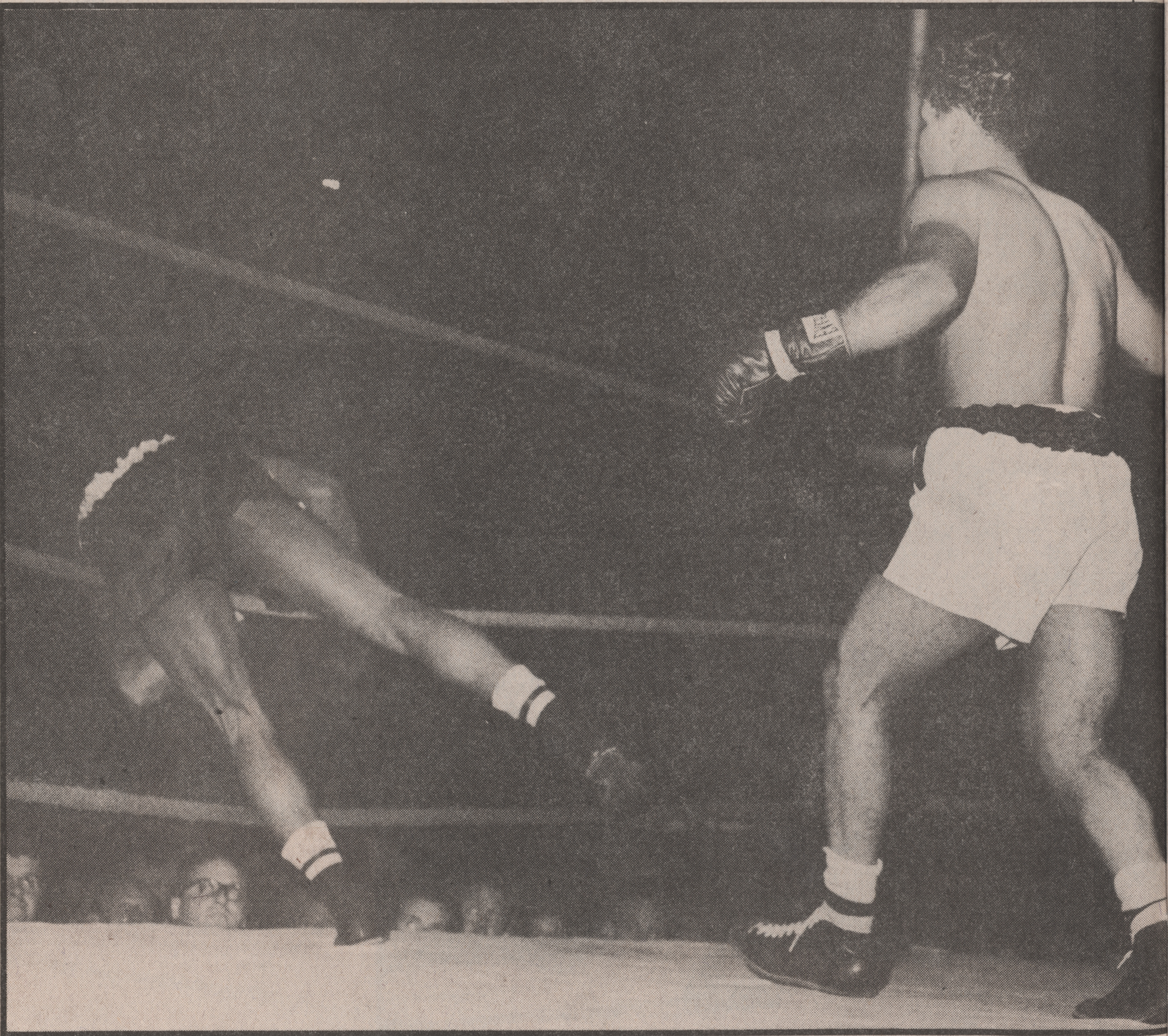
September 23, 1957. Basilio lands a left hook to the jaw of Sugar Ray Robinson at Yankee Stadium. Carmen was able to deep Sugar Ray on the ropes often enough to cop a split decision—and Robinson's middleweight title. (This page right) Basilio drops an exhausted DeMarco to the floor at 1:54 of the 12th, just two seconds longer than it had taken him to stop Tony in their first bout. (Overleaf Top) October 27, 1950. Former world middleweight champion Rocky Graziano and Tony Janiro swap punches at Madison Square Garden. Rocky won a close unanimous decision.

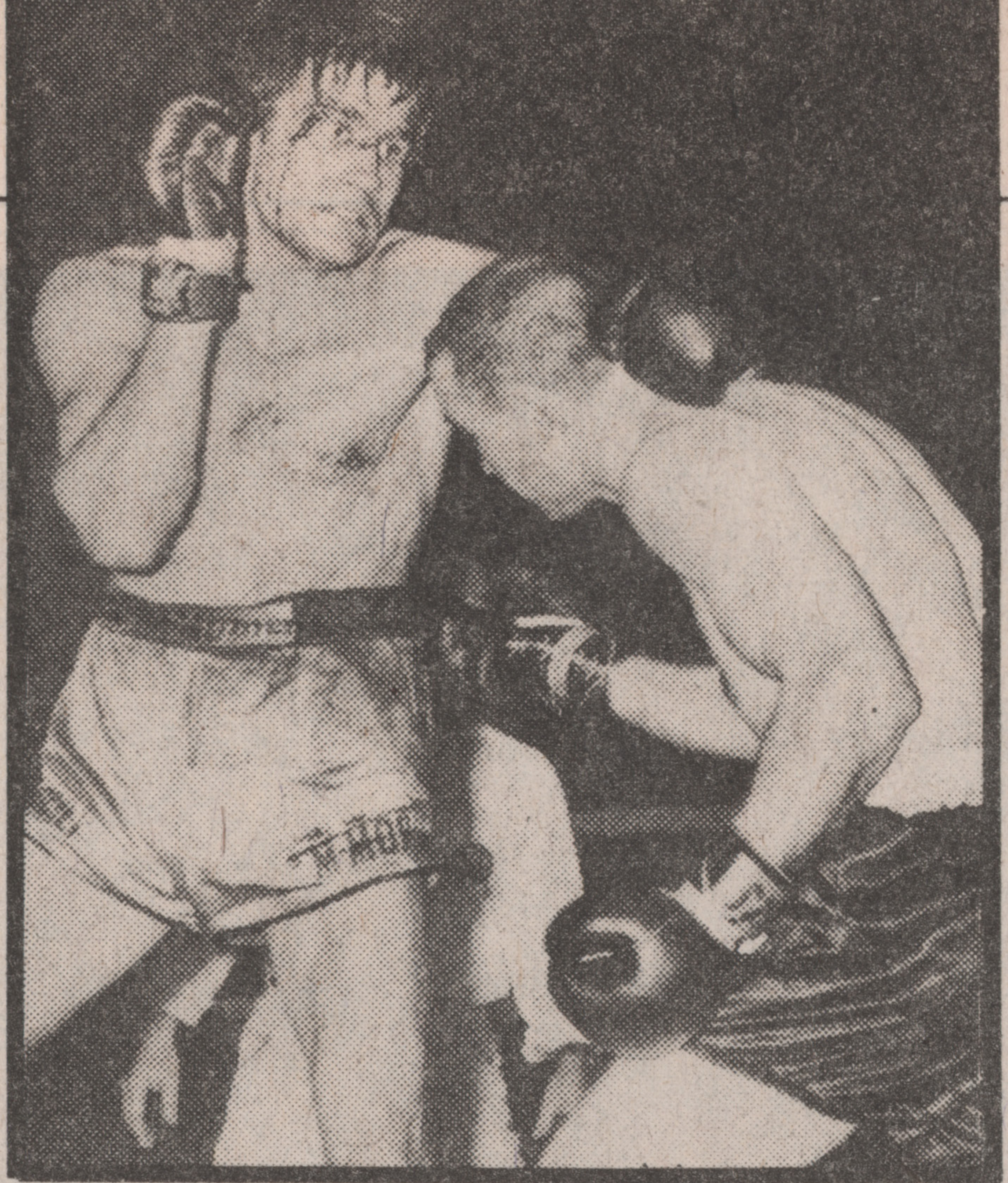


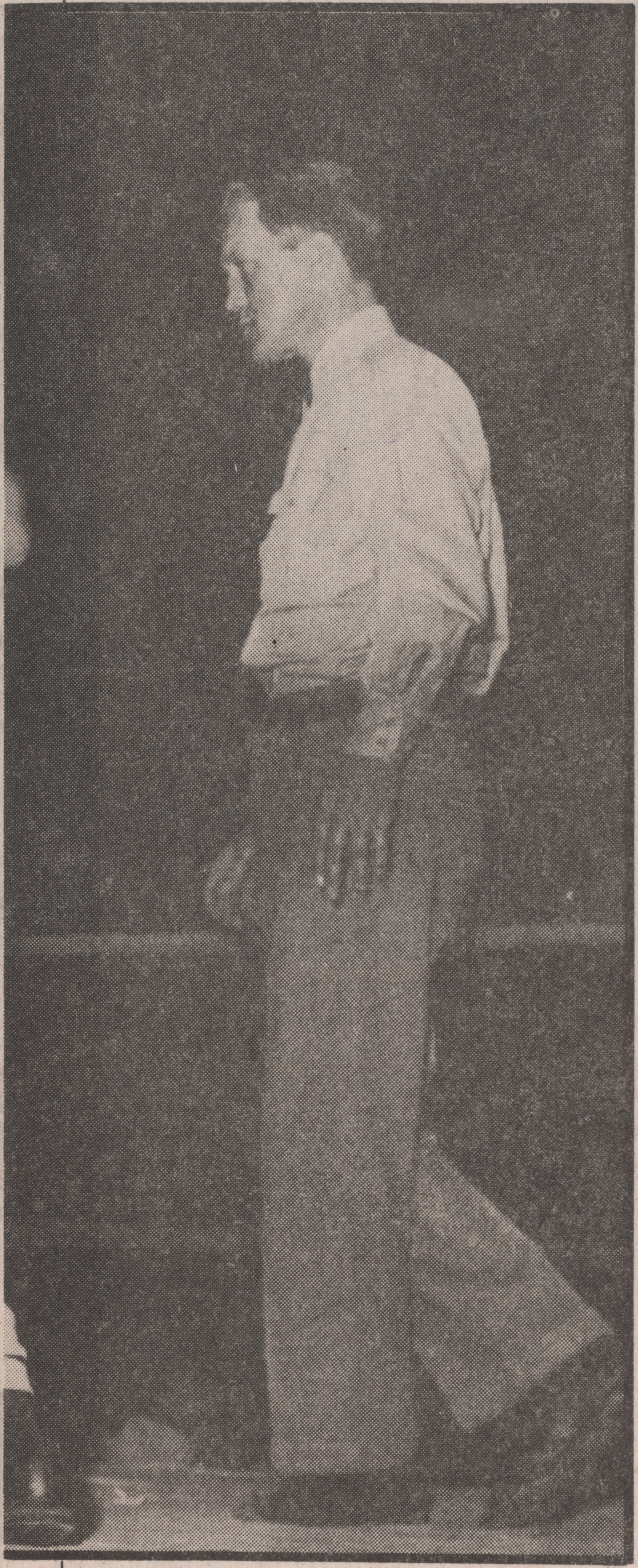


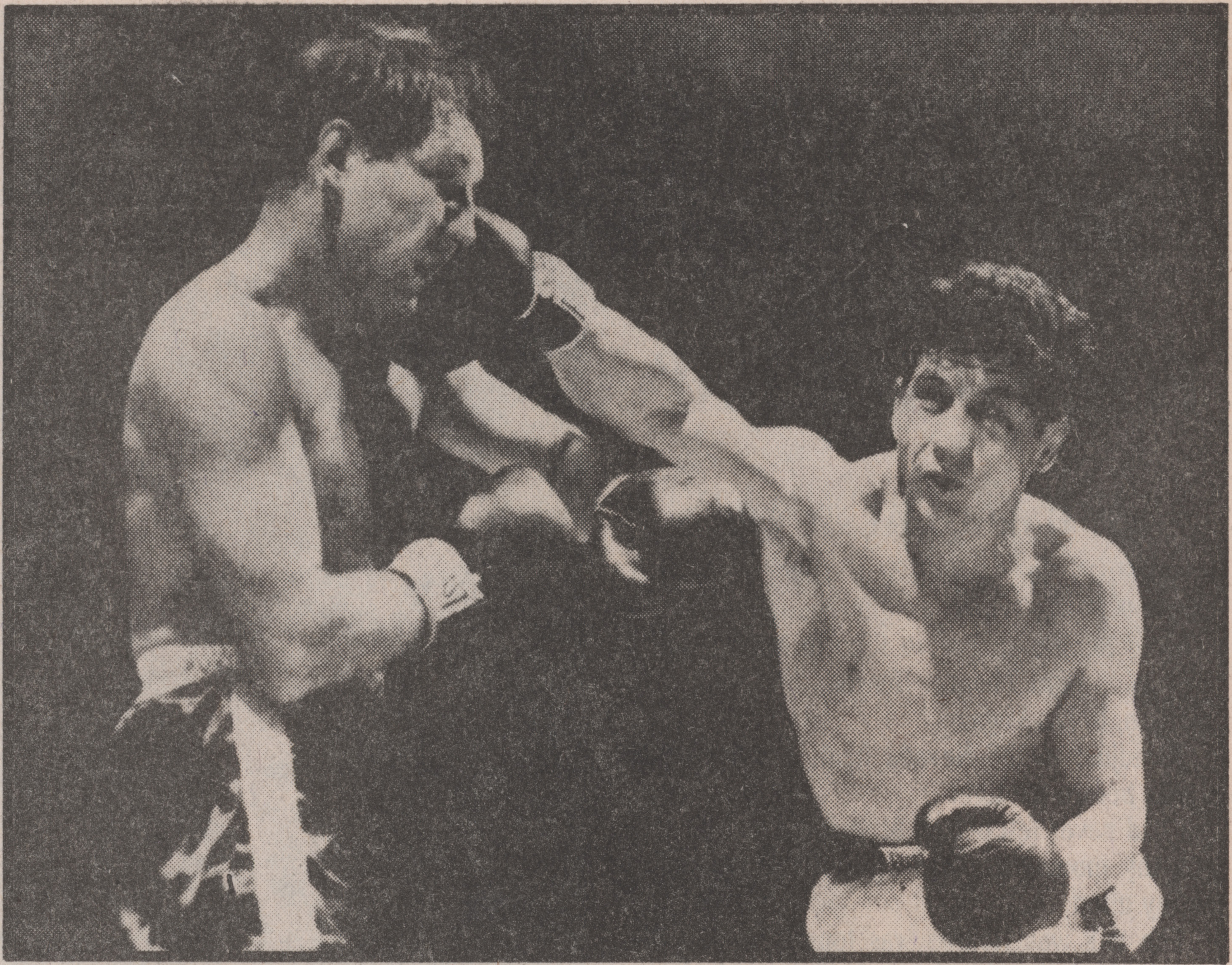
(This page, Below) June 1, 1948. Jake LaMotta sends Ken Stribling through the ropes in the second round in Washington, D.C. LaMotta halted Stribling in the fifth—exactly one year and 15 days before winning the world crown from Marcel Cerdan. (Right hand page, Top left) December 14, 1968. Nino Benvenuti mauls it out with Don Fullmer in defense of his middleweight crown at the Ariston Theatre in San Remo, Italy. Nino won unanimous decision. This was the first world middleweight title bout ever

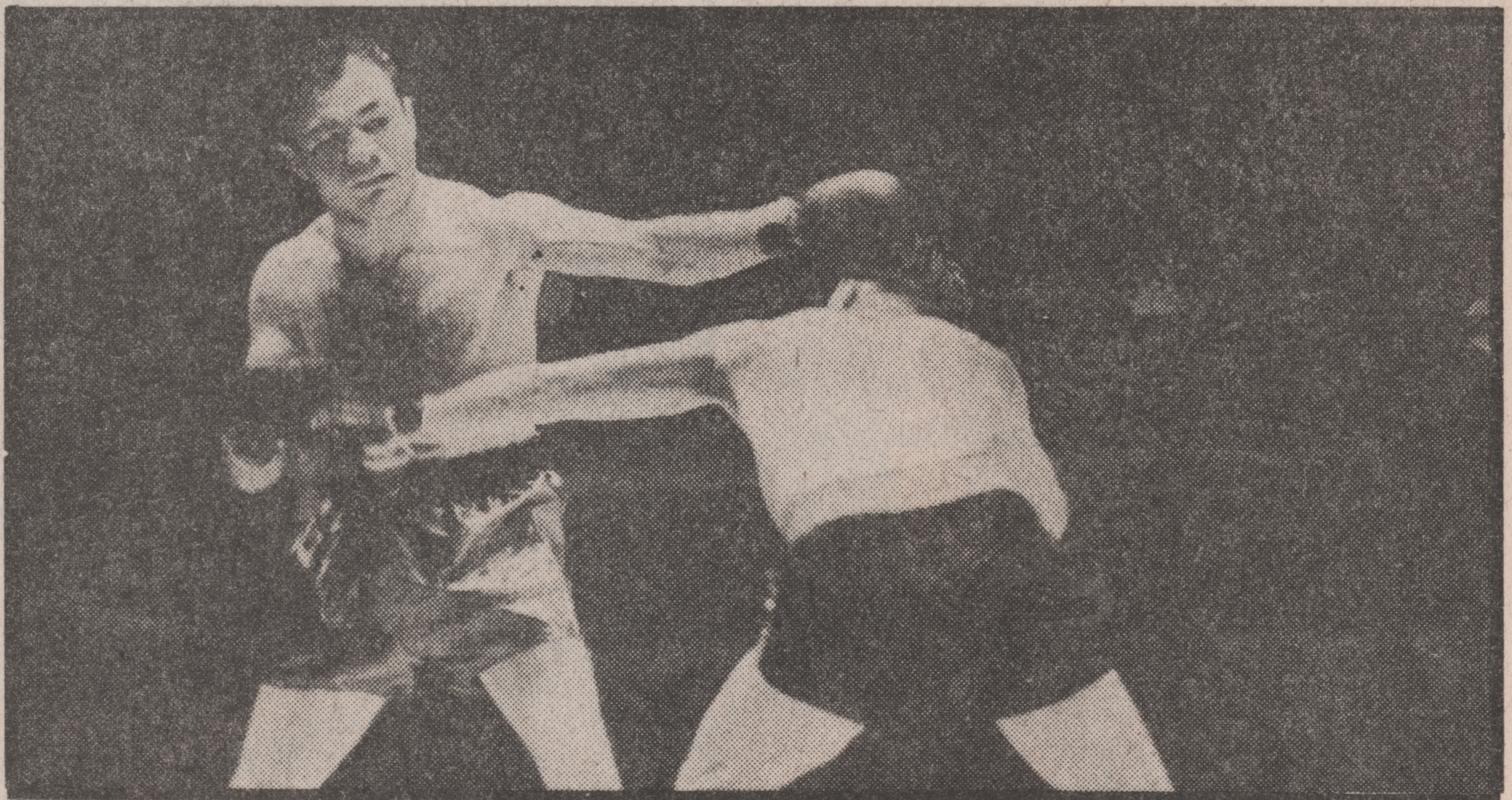






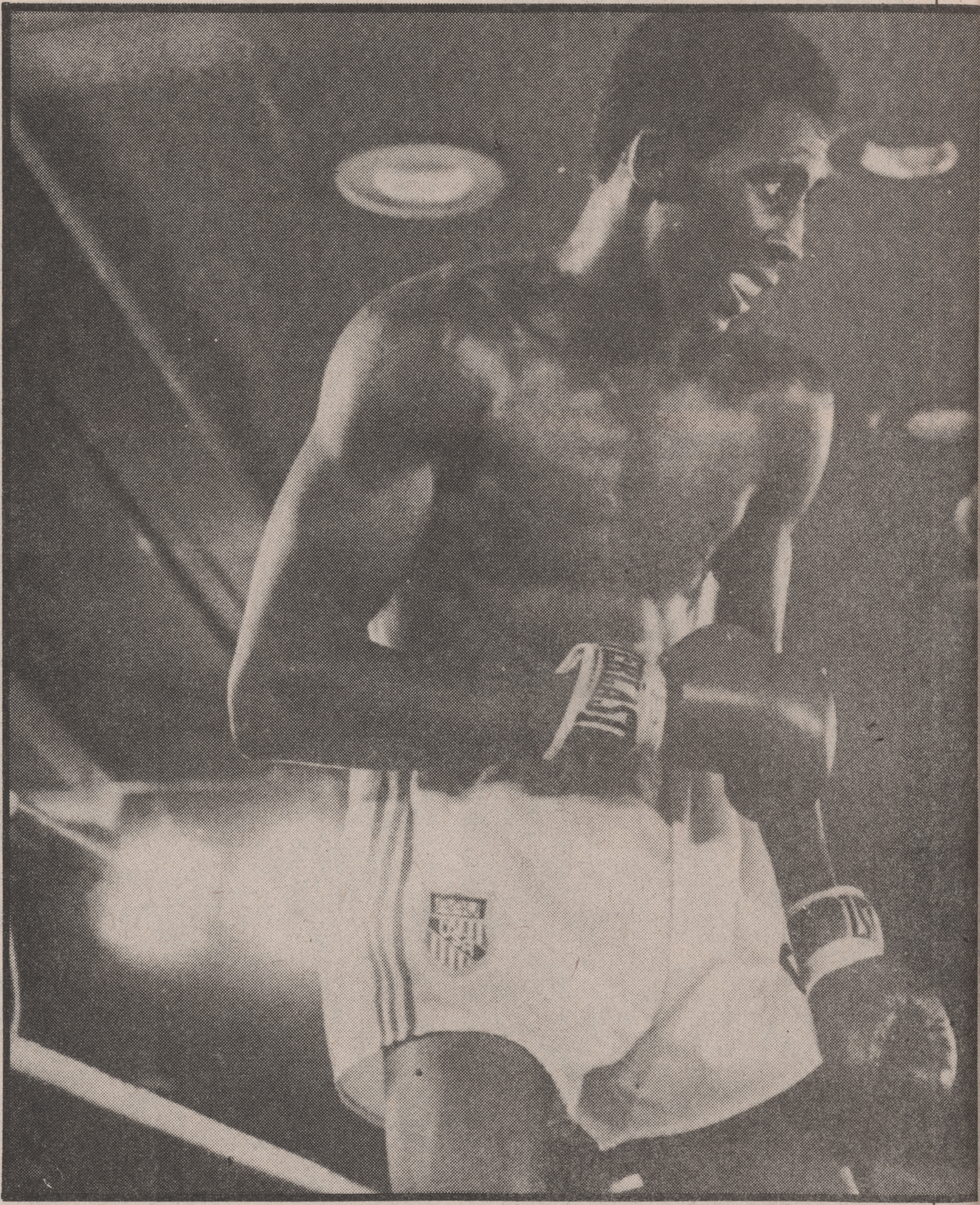






held in Italy. (Right hand page, Top right) December 19, 1952. Billy Graham is on the receiving end of a straight right from future world middleweight king Joey Giardello at the Garden. Most ringsiders thought Graham had won at the close of the 10-rounder, but the official decision—a split verdict—favored Giardello. Commissioners Christenberry and Powell later altered judge Joe Agnello's scorecard, making Graham the winner, but the State Supreme Court later ruled that the original decision had to stand. Billy won a 12-round rematch three months later. (Above) May 8, 1936. Tony Canzoneri survives a bad first round, one that started when he walked into the lowslung ring mike and continued with a battering from heavy-hitting Jimmy McLarnin, to win a hard-fought 10-round battle and reestablish his credentials as one of the ring's all-time greats.

A FIGHTER WHO HAS BEEN THERE BEFORE HAS SOME WORDS FOR SUGAR RAY



BY HAROLD WESTON JR

IT WAS MAY 1979, AND I HAD LOST MY SECOND attempt at the welterweight championship to Wilfred Benitez in Puerto Rico in March. But I was set to fight Thomas Hearns, the Motor City hit man, in Las Vegas.

To adjust to the Nevada heat, I arrived two weeks before the fight.

I had never felt better. My weight was on target, my momentum was up and I had winning on my mind.

The talk was Hearns was tough, he had the punching power of a pirate at mutiny. I had one of the best chins in the fight game, so a puncher could not frighten me.

I slept well the night before the Hearns fight with the contentment of a winner. With that same feeling I awakened and began to prepare.

First Night. The ceiling over the ring in the Dunes Hotel was so low that Thomas Hearns's head almost touched it. I stifled a chuckle. Davey Pearl, the referee, gave instructions, the same instructions I had heard 39 times before, and the fight began.

•

Round 1 — Hearns was looking at me, towering over me. Hearns got off so well — fast jabs — I was trying to time my jabs. As the round came to an end, Hearns had me against the ropes throwing combinations.

> ***"My advice to Sugar Ray Leonard... Leave now while you're still on top. Let the world know what the true definition of a champion is."***

Round 2 — Same story. Hearns landing jabs on my face. I got a few body punches in, but not enough to win the round.

Round 3 — Repetitious. It takes me a few rounds to warm up. I start to score on Hearns.

Round 4 — I'm loose, starting to sweat, moving with rhythm. I gain more on Hearns. Then my left eye begins to swell. I could hear Hearns's corner yelling, "Work on the left eye." I yelled to Hearns, "Sucker, you can't punch!" At that time I had him.

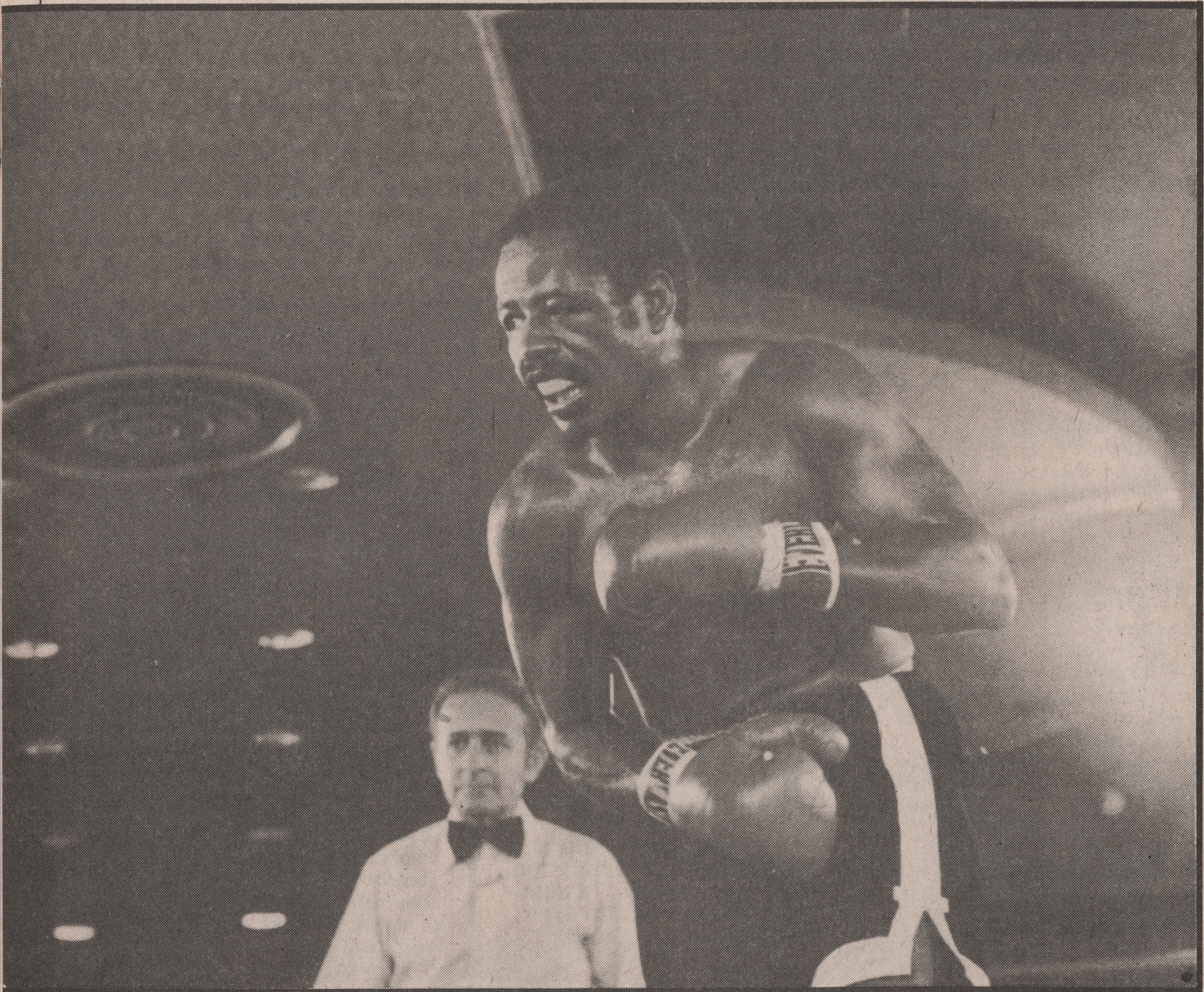
Round 5 — The crowd was with me. I was as sweet as sugar, the saying embroidered on the back of all my robes. Hearns began to run and tire, holding on. I continued hitting him.

Round 6 — The crowd continued to cheer. There was a smell of victory and knockout in the air. Hearns was still running. All of a sudden his left jab connected with my right eye. I had been thumbed. The ring became cloudy, but this had happened before. I was sure it would clear. Only it got worse. Hearns kept running, but through the clouds Weston kept up with him. Then my right eye went totally blind. I knew Hearns was still in the ring, though. I turned my body totally left so that I could see Hearns. That round was mine.

I returned to the corner and told my father and trainer, Harold Weston Sr., that I could no longer see out of the right eye. They rinsed it with cold water. Still no luck. The fight was over. I did not answer the bell for Round 7. Hearns had won.

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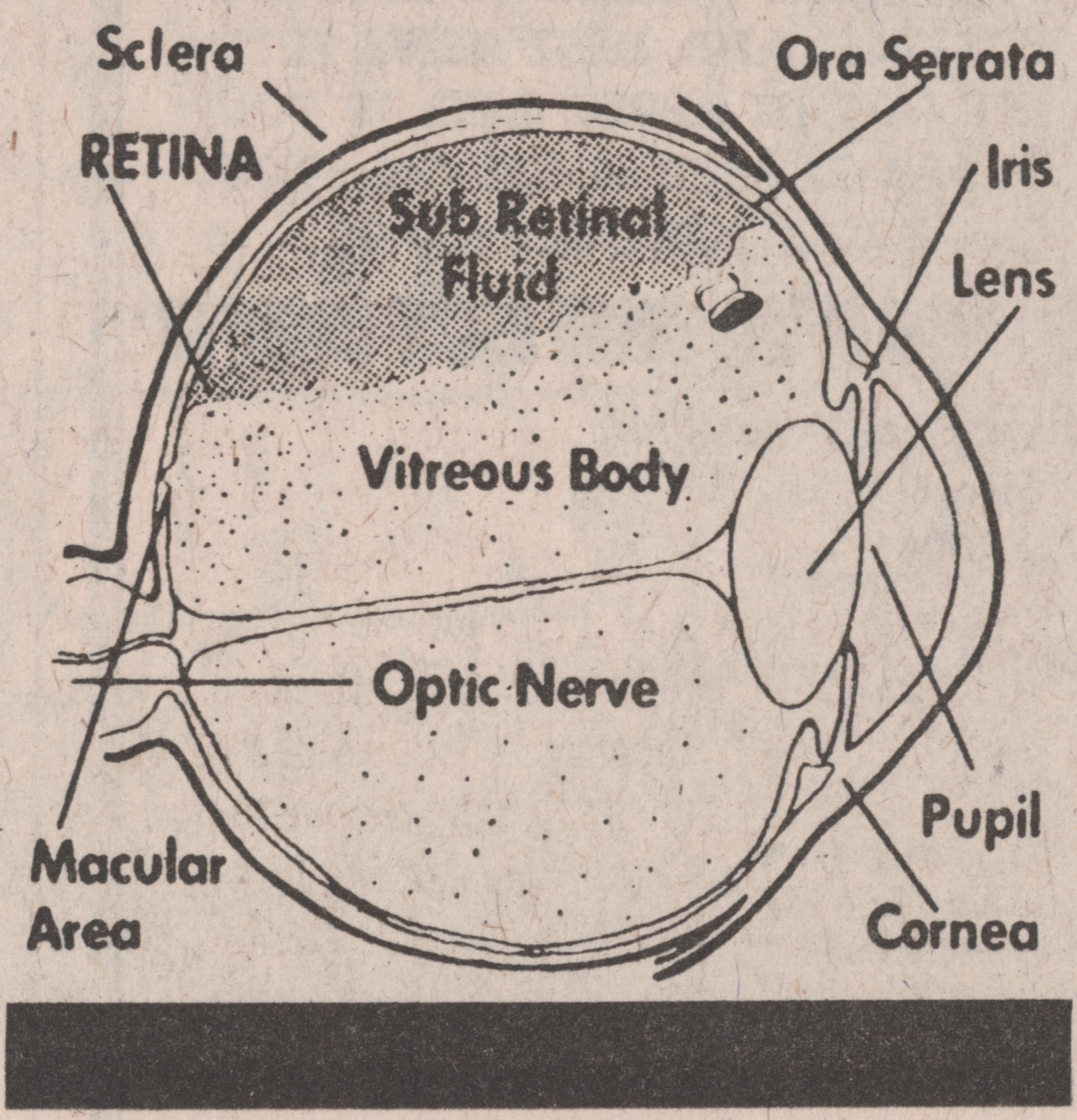
My entourage immediately went to the emergency room at Valley Hospital. I was asked to



read the letters on the wall but could not. The doctor could not examine me because of the amount of blood covering the cornea. The doctor covered the eye with a patch, said they would have to wait a few days for an official examination. He told me to lie on my left side.

I stayed in Las Vegas for two days and returned to the doctor. The blood had dried enough for the doctor to see. His news was shocking. He advised me to return to New York at once to be operated upon. There were hours, not days, before it would be too late.

Howie Albert, my manager, phoned Dr. Edwin Campbell, now a physician for the New York State Athletic Commission, and explained that I had a detached retina and needed surgery. Dr. Campbell called in Dr. James Schutz, a renowned eye specialist.



I returned to New York on the "red-eye special" from Vegas. It is ironic that the overnight flight bears that name. My eye was still patched. I was met by a car and rushed to Dr. Schutz's office. He looked into the eye, he stepped back and spoke: "I have to operate tonight. You have a 50-50 chance. You may never be able to see again following the operation."

My reply was as if I hadn't heard him. "Will I be able to fight again?"

Dr. Schutz's reply was: "Fight again? Let's just begin with your seeing again." My reply was, "I know you'll be successful."

Dr. Schutz said that there was a bad tear in the back of the eye. He had been experimenting with a new method on animals, but it had never been performed on humans. Would I try it? I said, "Let's go with it."

That night I checked into the Manhattan Eye Ear and Throat Hospital and had surgery the next morning.

Once again, winning was on my mind, but this fight had a prize much higher than a championship belt.

As I was rolled into surgery I passed my father, my manager and my other trainers. In surgery, there were maybe three doctors around. I was told to breathe deeply.

All of a sudden I raised my hands and said: "Hold it. I want an explanation of everyone's job here."

Dr. Schutz began to laugh and then explained. When he got to the cardiologist, I said: "You're who I wanted to see. Watch my heart closely, because if anything happens I will come back to haunt you." With that they put me to sleep.

•

I awakened 24 hours later feeling fine. One patch was removed. The doctor checked me out and said I looked good. For seven days I lay on my left side with drops being placed in my eyes twice daily. The bed rest lasted 10 days. Visitors could be heard, not seen.

Through all of this, my thoughts still centered around re-entering the ring—the only livelihood I knew.

I began to look forward to Dr. Schutz's 8 A.M. visits, and we became close during this traumatic period.

On day No. 9 Dr. Schutz gave me permission to leave the next day. He had an optimistic outlook and gave me instructions to walk two miles daily and put two drops a day in my eyes.

I doubled his advice and walked four miles a day and used four eye drops. I visited Dr. Schutz three times weekly for a month and a half. Then I began to read with 20-20 vision and felt I was ready to return to the ring. The doctor explained the risk. My theory was I would rather be wealthy with one eye, than poor with two.

The operation's success had been a miracle. But Dr. Schutz was still against my return to boxing.

•

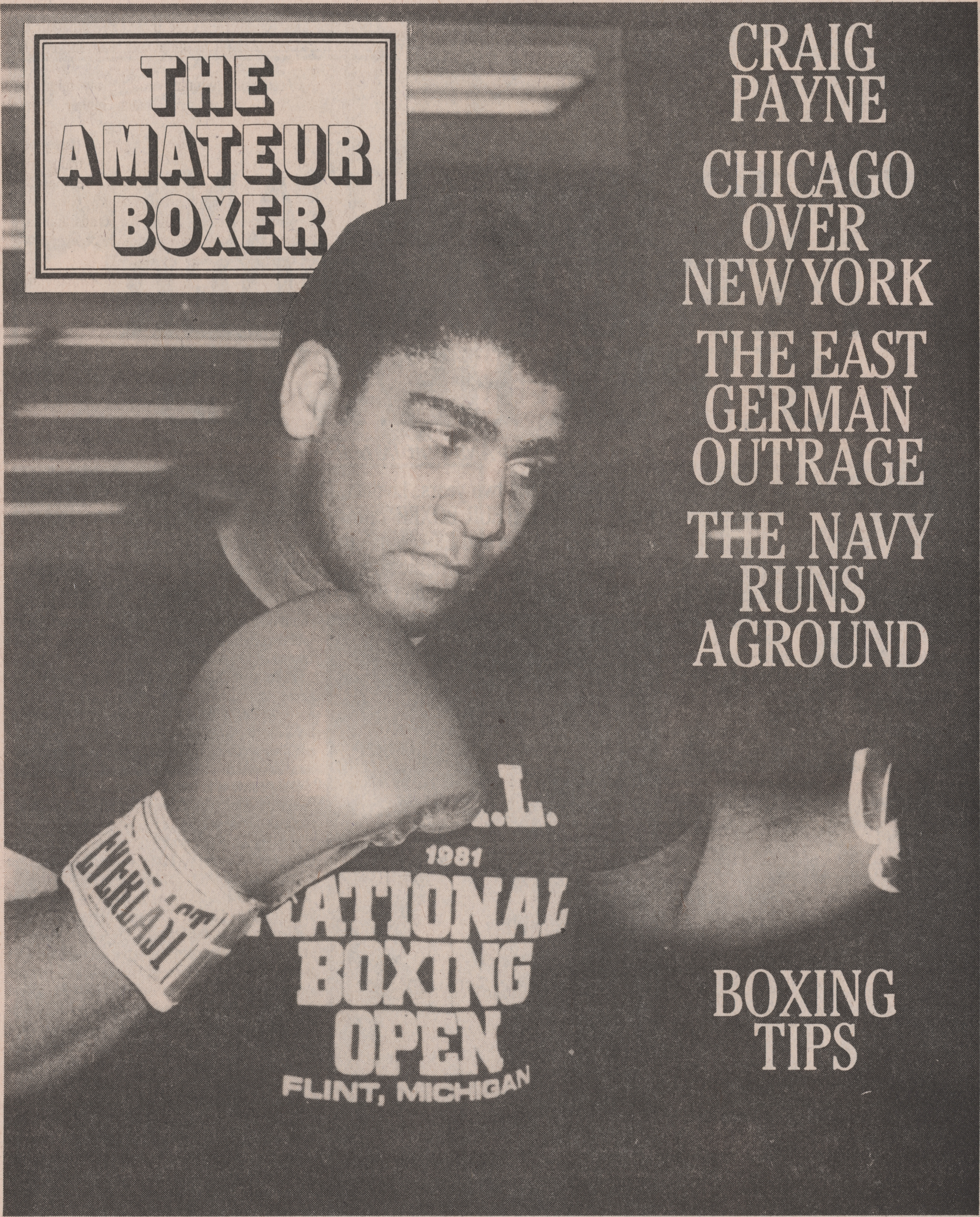
I never regained my boxing license in New York State. I was licensed again in New Jersey, but I never got back in the ring. But I am satisfied.

In advice to Sugar Ray Leonard, I'm glad I have my eyesight. I don't have the millions Leonard has, but I have my eyesight forever. Since you don't need the money, Sugar Ray, guard your most valuable asset.

The championship is momentary. It is only yours on a loan. If you leave now you will be Sugar Ray Leonard the champion. If you go back and lose, you'll be Ray the loser.

Leave now while you're still on top. Let the world know what the true definition of a champion is. □

THE AMATEUR BOXER



CRAIG PAYNE

CHICAGO OVER NEW YORK

THE EAST GERMAN OUTRAGE

THE NAVY RUNS AGROUND

BOXING TIPS

PROFILE

CRAIG IS A GIGANTIC PAYNE TO OTHER SUPER HEAVIES

BY SCOTT SOUCY AND BOB TAYLOR

ALTHOUGH he's been fighting only two years, Livonia, Michigan's Craig Payne is by most accounts and THE AMATEUR BOXER ratings the third best super heavyweight in the country. ¶ The two big national titles—Golden Gloves and USA/Amateur Boxing Federation—eluded Payne this year. ¶ But while the burly boxer with the grizzly bear build and the sunny, playful disposition of a koala bear cub lost the nod of the judges, in each instance he unequivocally won the hearts and votes of the crowds.

FIRST, IT WAS THE NATIONAL GOLDEN GLOVES TOURNEY in Kansas City, Mo. Craig was pitted in the finals against Warren Thompson of Baltimore, a black belt in karate and a brown belt in judo and a boxer with top quality international experience, which Payne lacks.

Thompon did the advancing but Payne made the fight, getting in and out with sudden, sometimes awkward, but unpredictable sallies, which often befuddled the more orthodox Maryland battler.

At the end, the judges gave the nod to Thompson.

Some in the Kansas City crowd were surprised, some booed.

A week and a half later, Biggs was in against the most super super heavyweight of them all right now, the Philadelphia Flash, one Tyrell Biggs, in the quarterfinals of the USA/Amateur Boxing Federation national tourney in Charlotte, N.C. Maybe it was Biggs' bigness—at least in height, he's 6'4" compared to Payne's 6'1". Maybe it was Biggs' topdog reputation. He'd beaten the best, including Cuba's Angel Milian. Maybe it was Payne's whimsical, damn nigh cuddly pesonality and sometimes earnest footlessness which says: Maybe I'm not as polished as this guy but I'm gonna try through hard work and wit to knock his block off. Anyway, the crowd rooted throughout for underdog Payne.

All five judges voted for Biggs. Boos followed the victor to the dressing room.

Payne is used to fighting over his head. Right from the start of his two year career he was battling the top o' the heap behemoths.

In only his third bout, he took on Canada's experienced Alec Williams. Although he lost a controversial split decision, Payne gave his foe a standing 8 in the 1st and almost put him away.

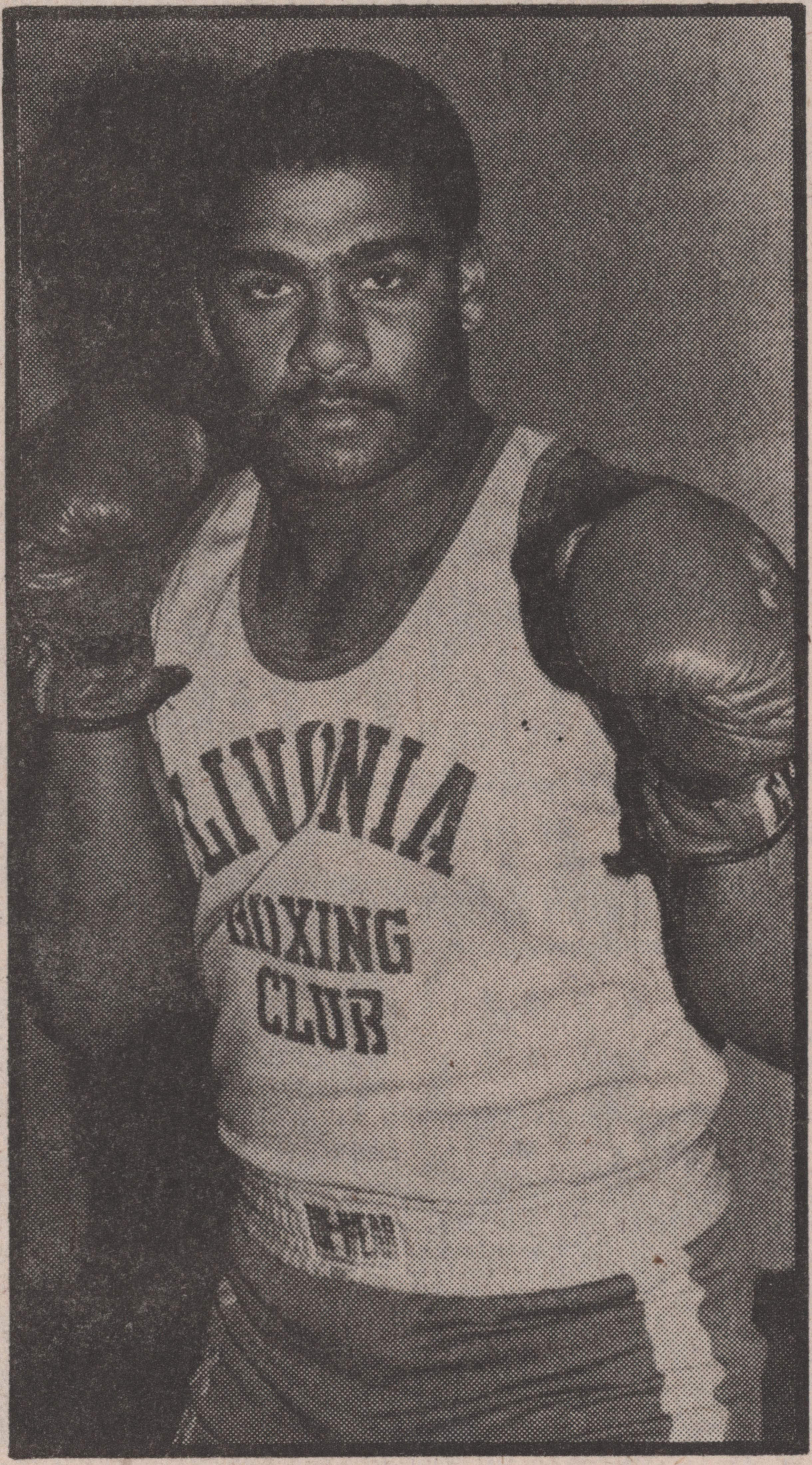


PHOTO BY PAMELA OSTROWSKI

In his sixth fight, 21-year-old Craig battled Defiance, Ohio's Mike Miller, then a veteran of 107 bouts. Again, he lost a close decision. But a few months later, he took a unanimous victory over Miller and thus began an unbroken record. The record? Nobody has ever beaten Payne twice.

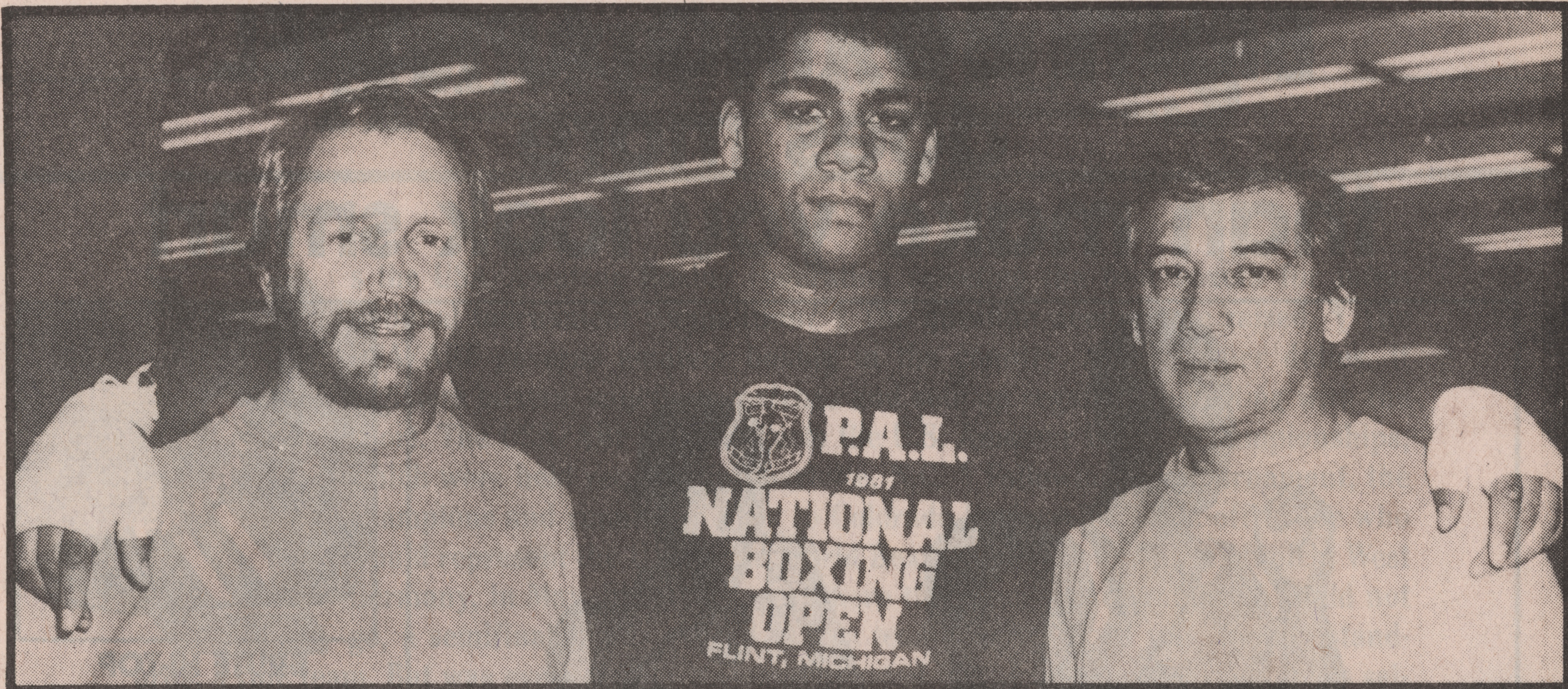
Craig's style is to befuddle, confuse and mystify an opponent. The second time around, he befuddles, confuses and mystifies twice as much.

In winning the National Police Athletic League title last year, for example, Payne reversed against then ranked Andy Stokes of Lafayette, Ind. In the quarterfinals of the National Gloves this year, he outpointed brawny Kevin Morris Sheeley of Minneapolis, who had beaten Payne at the 1981 USA/ABF Nationals.

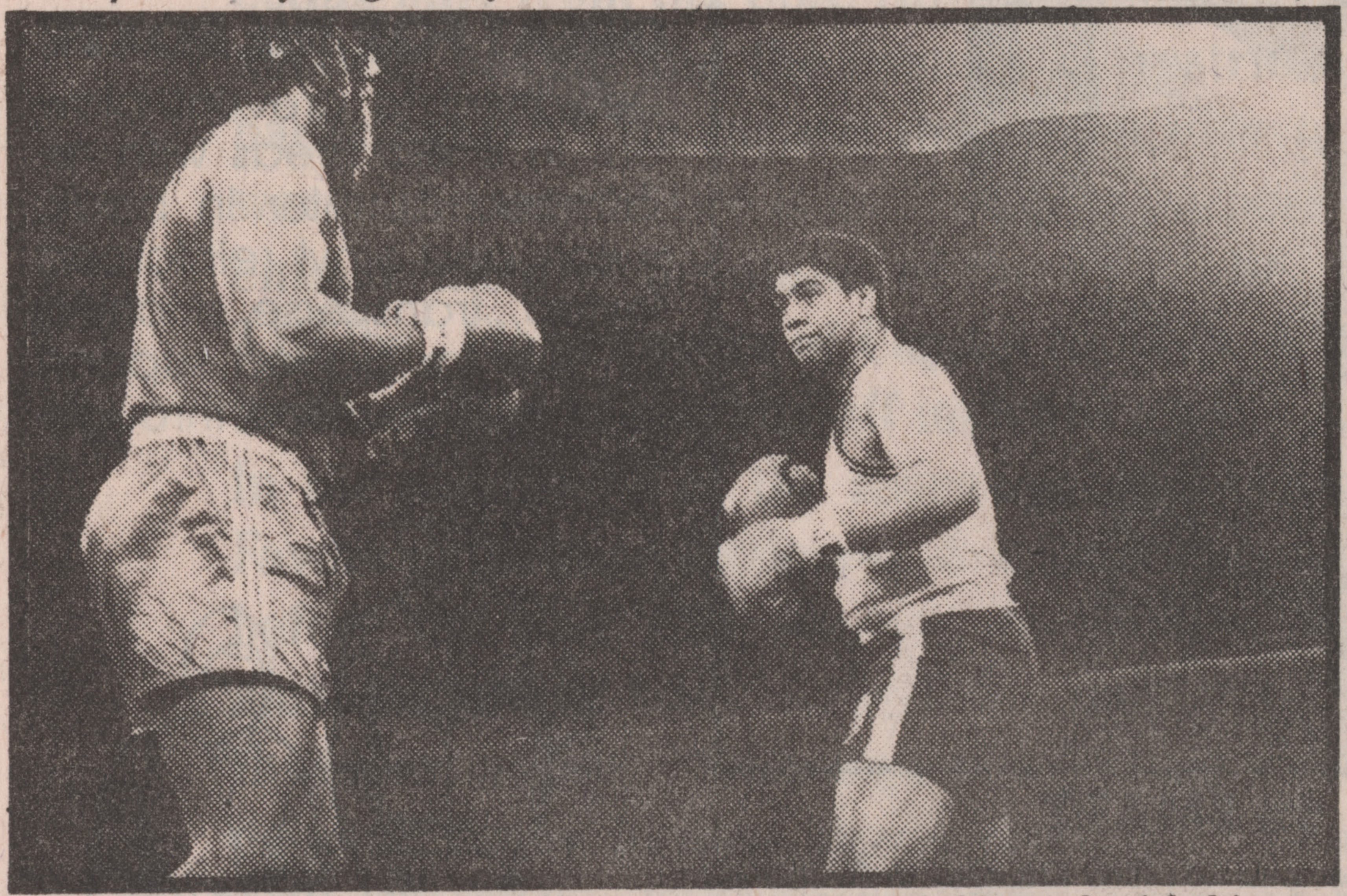
Payne, a construction employee who operates his own handyman and firewood business on the side, is a dogged worker, say his coaches, Paul Soucy and Dick Quiton. Since he began boxing, he whittled himself down from 265 to 215. Craig runs three to five miles a day and works out at least four nights a week in the spacious, newly relocated Livonia Boxing Club gym.

Livonia is a suburb of Detroit.

In only two years, Craig, who is now batting about .750, has won one national title and come close to winning several others. And he has kept intact that record of never having been beaten twice by the same fighter. That's one reason he'd like to meet Warren Thompson and Tyrell Biggs again.

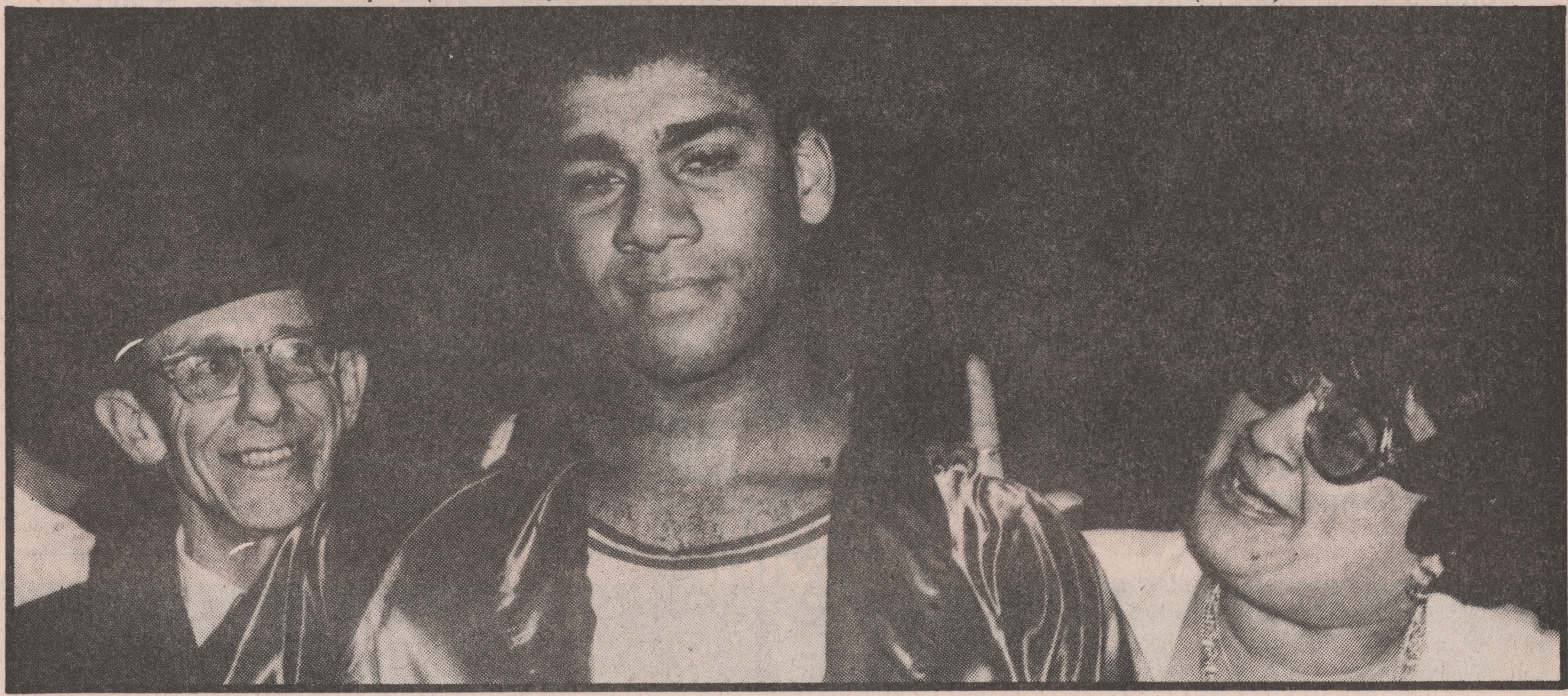


Super Heavyweight Payne seen here with his coaches, Paul Soucy and Dick Quinton, (top and middle right) losing controversial decision to





Warren Thompson (middle left), and with his parents who still think he's "Number One." (bottom)



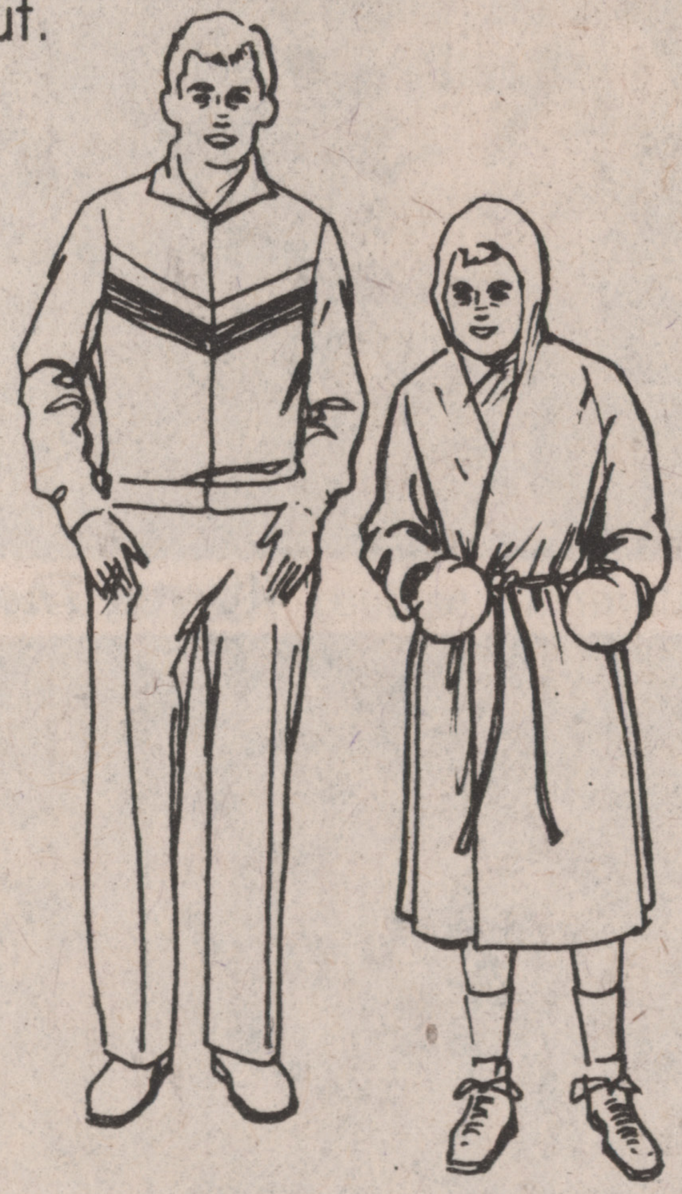
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AMATEUR RATINGS

Is the USA/Amateur Boxing Federation selecting the best boxers for international tournament competition? ¶ The question needs to be raised. ¶ The USA/ABF governs amateur boxing in the country. Among other duties, it registers boxers, sanctions matches and sets up regulations dealing with the sport. The USA/ABF also conducts the U.S. Amateur Boxing Championships, which were held recently in Charlotte, N.C. ¶ Following this tournament, the champions and runnersup went to Colorado Springs for a box-off to see who would represent the U.S. in the World Boxing Championships in Munich, West Germany, in May. In those cases where the champion or runnerup could not go, a semifinalist was chosen. ¶ The team that emerged was, by any standards, a fine team. But was every weight class represented by the best boxer available? Is selecting only from the USA/ABF tournament the best procedure? Is the USA/ABF being fair to amateur boxing and the country by restriction box-off candidates to USA/ABF tournament participants? ¶ We suspect that the answer to the first question is *probably not* and the answer to the second two is *no.* The only purpose served by selection from a single tournament is enhancement of the status of the USA/ABF. ¶ Let's give two examples of what we mean. At 119 lbs., Floyd Favors of Capitol Heights, Md., won the USA/ABF title. In Colorado Springs, he was pitted in two box-off matches against Lupe Gutierriez of Turlock, Calif., whom he beat in the semifinals of the tournament. Gutierrez decisioned Favors, 4-1, in the first match, Favors outpointed Gutierrez, 3-2, in the second match. Favors went to Munich. ¶ Only weeks before the USA/ABF tourney, the Golden Gloves Association of America—the other giant amateur boxing body in the U.S.—had completed its national tourney in Kansas City, Mo. At that tournament, Favors was clearly outpointed in the smifinals by Meldrick Taylor of Philadelphia. Taylor became gloves champion. ¶ Nothing should be taken away from Favors. He is a fine fighter, who reminds this writer of Sugar Ray Leonard in his amateur days. But wouldn't a box-off—if a box-off is going to be held—make more sense if Favors and Taylor were the protagonists? Or how about Favors and Taylor and Gutierrez if two box-off matches are going to be held? ¶ Our second example: Keith Vining of Detroit was the Gloves champion at 178. Bennie Heard of Augusta, GA., was the USA/ABF champion at the same weight. Both defeated Sherman Griffin of Minneapolis in the finals of their respective tournaments. Do we get a box-off between Heard and Vining? No, we got a box-off between Heard and Griffin, with Heard again the winner. ¶ There are several other examples as well. Gloves champions Jose Rosario, 106, and Jesse Benavides, 112, come readily to mind. ¶ We would think that the function of the USA/ABF should be not only to govern amateur boxing but to encourage the growth and well-being of other boxing organizations. ¶ It does not do this by, in effect, saying: The only way you can get a crack at international championship competition is by participating in our tournament. All other tournaments don't count. ¶ The issue becomes all the more important as the Olympic Trials draw closer.

BOB TAYLOR

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National

GENUINE

SUPER HEAVYWEIGHTS
(over 201 pounds)

1 Tyrone Biggs . . . . . Philadelphia
2 Warren Thompson . . . . . Baltimore
3 Craig Payne . . . . . Livonia, Mich.
4 Lucious Kirkley . . . . . Army
5 Al Evans . . . . . Chicago
6 Eddie Richardson . . . . . Dallas
7 Kevin Sheeley . . . . . Minneapolis
8 Mark Mahone . . . . . Navy
9 Rodney Frazier . . . . . Philadelphia
10 Pisa Finai . . . . . Salt Lake City

HEAVYWEIGHTS
(not over 201 pounds)

1 Elmer Martin . . . . . Navy
2 Howard Lake . . . . . Air Force
3 Henry Milligan . . . . . Hockessin, Del.
4 Michael Arms . . . . . Madison, Wisc.
5 Terry Anderson . . . . . Marines
6 Earl Lewis . . . . . Youngstown, Ohio
7 Mike Dennard . . . . . Boise, Ida.
8 Sanford Robinson . . . . . Army
9 Olian Alexander . . . . . Hutchinson, Kans.
10 Brian Westmoreland . . . . . St. Louis

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
(not over 178 pounds)

1 Keith Vining . . . . . Detroit
2 Bennie Heard . . . . . Augusta, Ga.
3 Sherman Griffin . . . . . Minneapolis
4 Ronnie Hughes . . . . . Army
5 Johnny Williams . . . . . Chicago
6 Doug Wilson . . . . . Kansas City, Mo.
7 George Gordon . . . . . Las Vegas
8 James Howe . . . . . Toledo, Ohio
9 Edward Smith . . . . . Chicago
10 Antonio Sweeney . . . . . Houston

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
(not over 165 pounds)

1 Michael Grogan . . . . . Atlanta
2 Iran Barkley . . . . . Bronx, N.Y.
3 Elton Singleton . . . . . Louisville
4 Arthel Lawhorn . . . . . Detroit
5 Vincent Neims . . . . . Columbus
6 Nathan Houser . . . . . Navy
7 Osley Silas . . . . . Suitland, Md.
8 Anthony Holt . . . . . New York City
9 Andy Schott . . . . . New Paltz, N.Y.
10 Trent Morrison . . . . . Hutchinson, Kans.

LIGHT MIDDLEWEIGHTS
(not over 156 pounds)

1 Dennis Milton . . . . . Bronx, N.Y.
2 Sanderline Williams . . . . . Cleveland
3 Alfred Mayes . . . . . St. Louis
4 Roger McCane . . . . . Tacoma, Wash.
5 Tyrone Gaynor . . . . . Navy
6 Roy Sapp . . . . . Hughesville, Md.
7 David McCall . . . . . Des Moines
8 Jack Padia . . . . . Penngrove, Calif.
9 George McAllister . . . . . San Diego
10 Jeff Filler . . . . . Havre, Mont.

WELTERWEIGHTS
(not over 147 pounds)

1 Mark Breland . . . . . Brooklyn, N.Y.
2 Frank Warren . . . . . Corpus Christi, Tex.
3 Roman George . . . . . Lafayette, La.
4 Michael Nunn . . . . . Davenport, Ia.
5 Louis Howard . . . . . University City, Mo.
6 Darryl Robinson . . . . . Houston
7 Joe Walker . . . . . Akron
8 Frank Tate . . . . . Detroit
9 Darrin Allen . . . . . Columbus
10 Ron Essett . . . . . Indianapolis

BOXER OF T... of C...
showing impressively i... Golden Gloves and natio... and emerging as champi... was the only boxer to... matches before securing... that went to the World... Munich, West Germany. -...

BOXING C...

JULY TBA	MARCOS CUP
JULY 23-31	NATIONAL SPORTS FES...
JULY 7-10	GOLDEN BEAR
AUG. 4-8	AAU/USA JR. OLYMPIC...
AUG. 9-15	OHIO STATE FAIR
AUG 16-22	JUNIOR AMATEUR CHA...
SEPT. 3-5	USA/ABF ANNUAL MEE...
SEPT TBA	WORLD MILITARY GAM...
OCT. 2	U.S.-SOUTH AMERICA
OCT. 20-24	TAMMER INTERNATION...
NOV. 13	U.S.-CUBA
NOV. 20	U.S.-CUBA
DEC. 13-18	USA/ABF NATIONALS

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Ratings

HE MONTH: Floyd Favors,
apitol Heights, Md., for
in back-to-back national
nal USA/ABF tournaments
on in the latter. Floyd also
engage in two box-off
a berth on the U.S. team
Boxing Championships in

ALENDAR

	Manila, Philippines
TIVAL	Indianapolis
	Sacramento, Calif.
S	Memphis, Tenn., State
	Columbus, Ohio
MPIONSHIPS	TBA
TING	Colorado Springs
ES	Abidjan, Ivory Coast
	TBA
L	Tampere, Finland
	Charlotte, N.C.
	TBA
	TBA

LIGHT WELTERWEIGHTS
(not over 139 pounds)

1 **Henry Hughes** .... Cleveland
2 **Timmy Rabon** .... Broussard, La.
3 **Vincent Releford** .... Fort Worth
4 **Jerry Page** .... Columbus
5 **Cedric Rose** .... W. Dallas
6 **Tyrone Trice** .... Milwaukee
7 **Ed Osborne** .... Bryte, Calif.
8 **Vincent Webb** .... University City, Mo.
9 **Tim Christensen** .... Marines
10 **Reginald Watkins** .... Knoxville

LIGHTWEIGHTS
(not over 132 pounds)

1 **Pernell Whitaker** .... Norfolk, Va.
2 **Robert Byrd** .... Dallas
3 **Joey Belinc** .... Marysville, Wash.
4 **Rey Ordonio** .... Suisun City, Calif.
5 **James Cooper** .... St. Louis
6 **Frankie Randall** .... Morristown, Tenn.
7 **Joe Johnson** .... Detroit
8 **Clifford Gray** .... Boynton Beach, Fla.
9 **Vinnie Pazienza** .... Cranston, R.I.
10 **Charlie Brown** .... Silvis, Ill.

FEATHERWEIGHTS
(not over 125 pounds)

1 **Orlando Johnson** .... Chicago
2 **Bernard Gray** .... Boynton Beach, Fla.
3 **Andy Minsker** .... Milwaukee, Ore.
4 **Shelton LeBlanc** .... Carencro, La.
5 **James Johnson** .... St. Louis
6 **Lemont Buchanan** .... St. Louis
7 **James Johnson** .... Washington, D.C.
8 **Dino Ramirez** .... La Puente, Calif.
9 **Luis Hernandez** .... Yonkers, N.Y.
10 **Erskine Wade** .... Detroit
Troy Townsend .... Milwaukee

BANTAMWEIGHTS
(not over 119 pounds)

1 **Meldrick Taylor** .... Philadelphia
2 **Floyd Favors** .... Capitol Heights, Md.
3 **Lupe Gutierrez** .... Turlock, Calif.
4 **Herbie Bivalacqua** .... Marrero, La.
5 **Darryl Loving** .... Rochester, N.Y.
6 **Dido Rodrigues** .... Honolulu
7 **Rowdy Welch** .... Spokane
8 **Conrad Sanchez** .... Austin, Tex.
9 **Tony Montoya** .... Salt Lake City
10 **Joey Starr** .... Pekin, Ill.
Tony Pruitt .... St. Louis

FLYWEIGHTS
(not over 112 pounds)

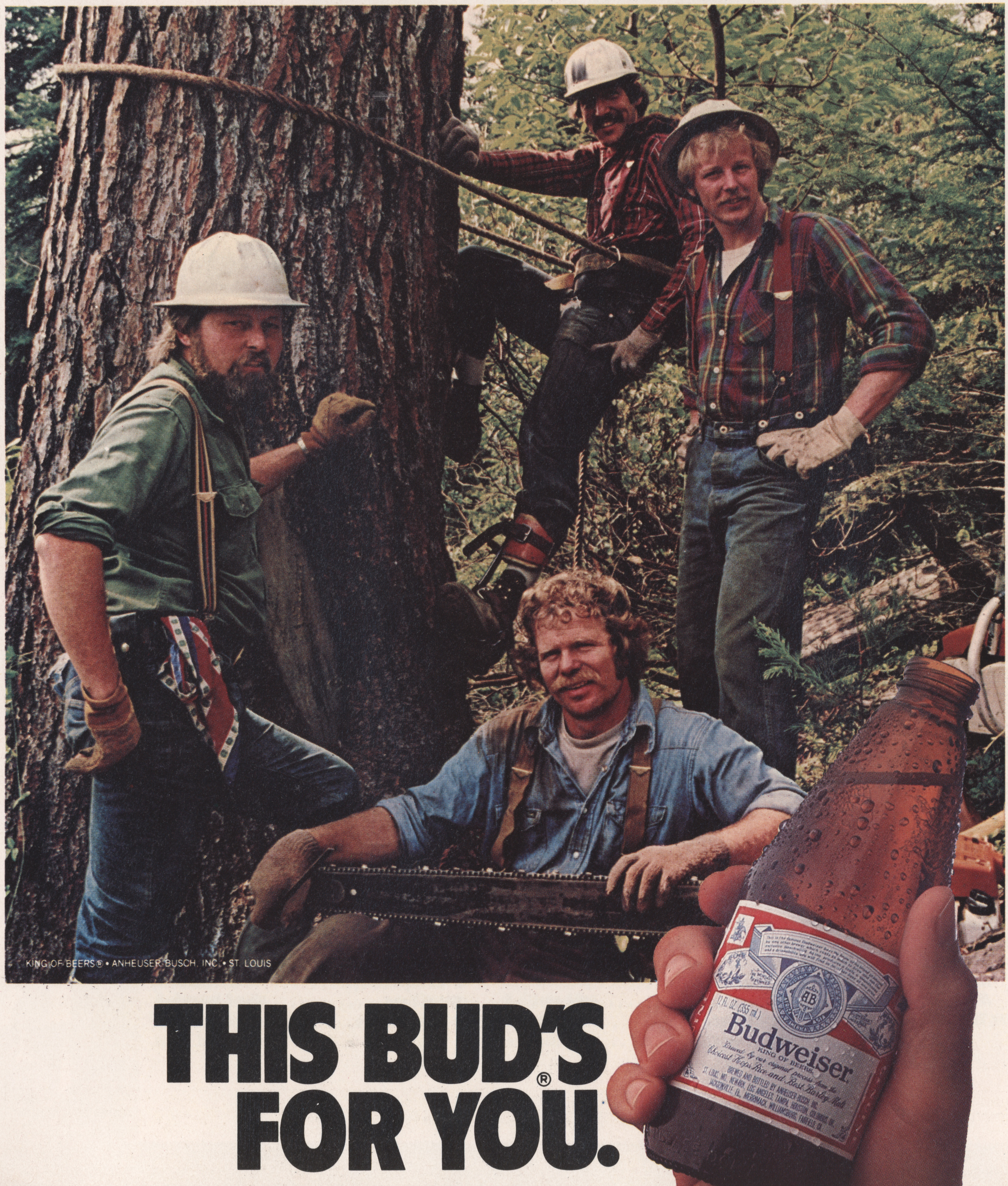
1 **Jesse Benavides** .... Corpus Christi, Tex.
2 **Steve McCrory** .... Detroit
3 **Michael Collins** .... La Porte, Tex.
4 **Fred Perkins** .... Army
5 **Robert Shannon** .... Edmonds, Wash.
6 **Ronnie Rentz** .... Albuquerque
7 **Bill Hackmer** .... Lockport, N.Y.
8 **Joey DeVoll** .... Fall River, Mass.
9 **Fred Batiste** .... Kenner, La.
10 **Sam David** .... Easton, Pa.

LIGHT FLYWEIGHTS
(not over 106 pounds)

1 **Jose Rosario** .... Jersey City, N.J.
2 **Mario Lesperance** .... Vallejo, Calif.
3 **Joe King** .... Washington, D.C.
4 **Israel Acosta** .... Milwaukee
5 **Mickey Bates** .... Davenport, Ia.
6 **Chain Cooper** .... Louisville
7 **Bryan Jones** .... Philadelphia
8 **Danny Montoya** .... Salt Lake City
9 **Les Fabri** .... Bremerton, Wash.
10 **Ricky Romero** .... Torrance, Calif.
Troy Tomms .... New Bedford, Mass.

GENUINE

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THIS BUD'S® FOR YOU.

THE DAY THE SECOND CITY CAME OUT FIRST

WHEN the Windy City and the Big Apple clash, all bets are off. ¶ Last year when Chicago came to New York City for the annual Intercity Golden Gloves match, Chicago was the big favorite. Score: New York 9, Chicago 2. ¶ The event is like Army-Navy on the gridiron, the Yankees-Dodgers in the ballprak. Anything can happen.

THIS YEAR CHICAGO WAS THE HOST. DOWN AT THE Chicago Tribune, sponsor of the Chicago Gloves, the tilt was anticipated with glumness. Chicago figured to have a weaker team than last year's. New York was presumed to be a powerhouse.

Trib Gloves people had nightmares. Was 12-0 possible?

Comes April 23, night of the match, at the Rosemont Horizon, and you know what happens?

The Windy City makes sauce out of the Big Apple—9 to 3.

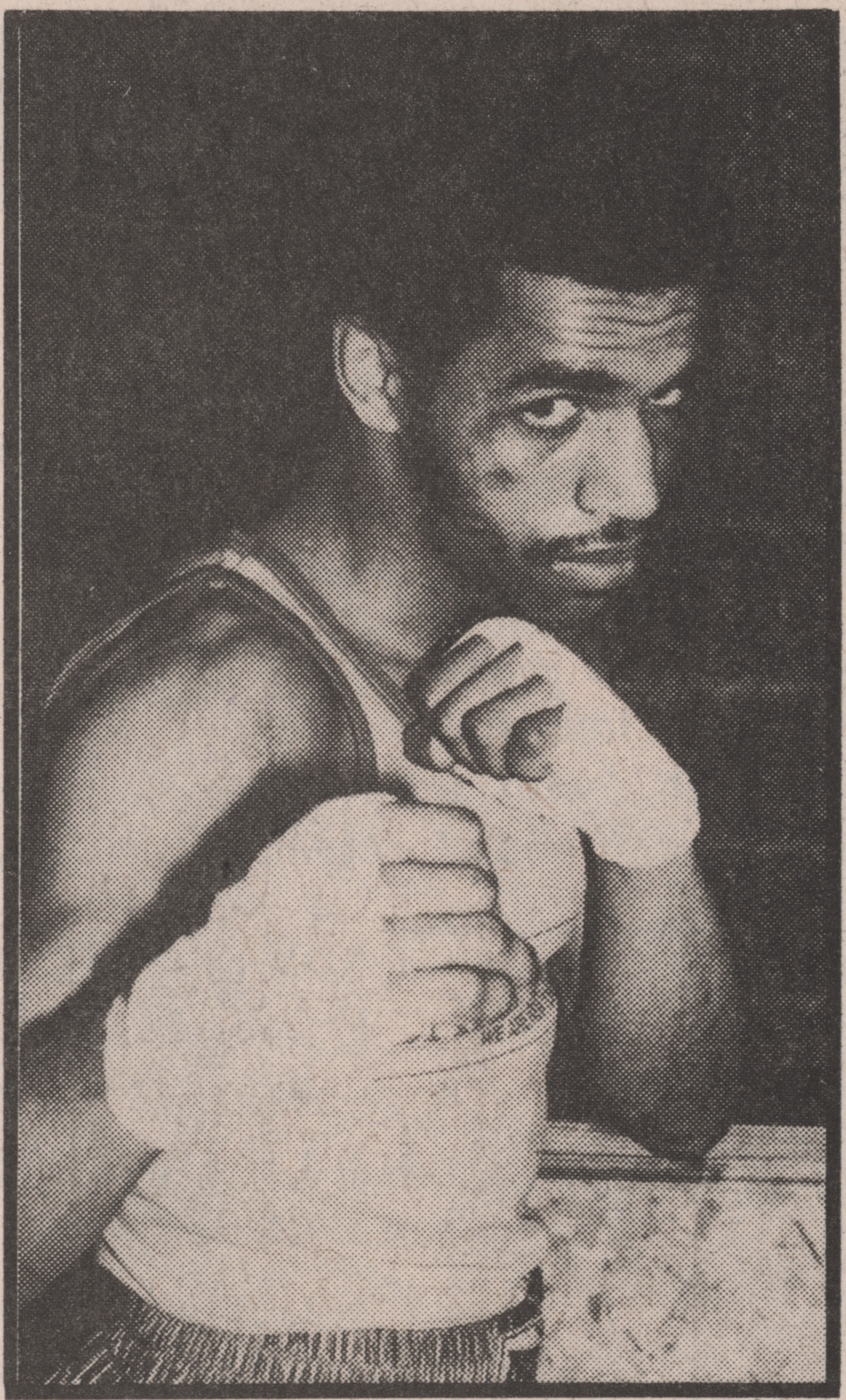
Trib boxing writer Mike Conklin acknowledged that Chicago got a couple of gift decisions (New Yord got one last year) but, nevertheless, poet Carl Sandburg's City of the Big Shoulders won big.

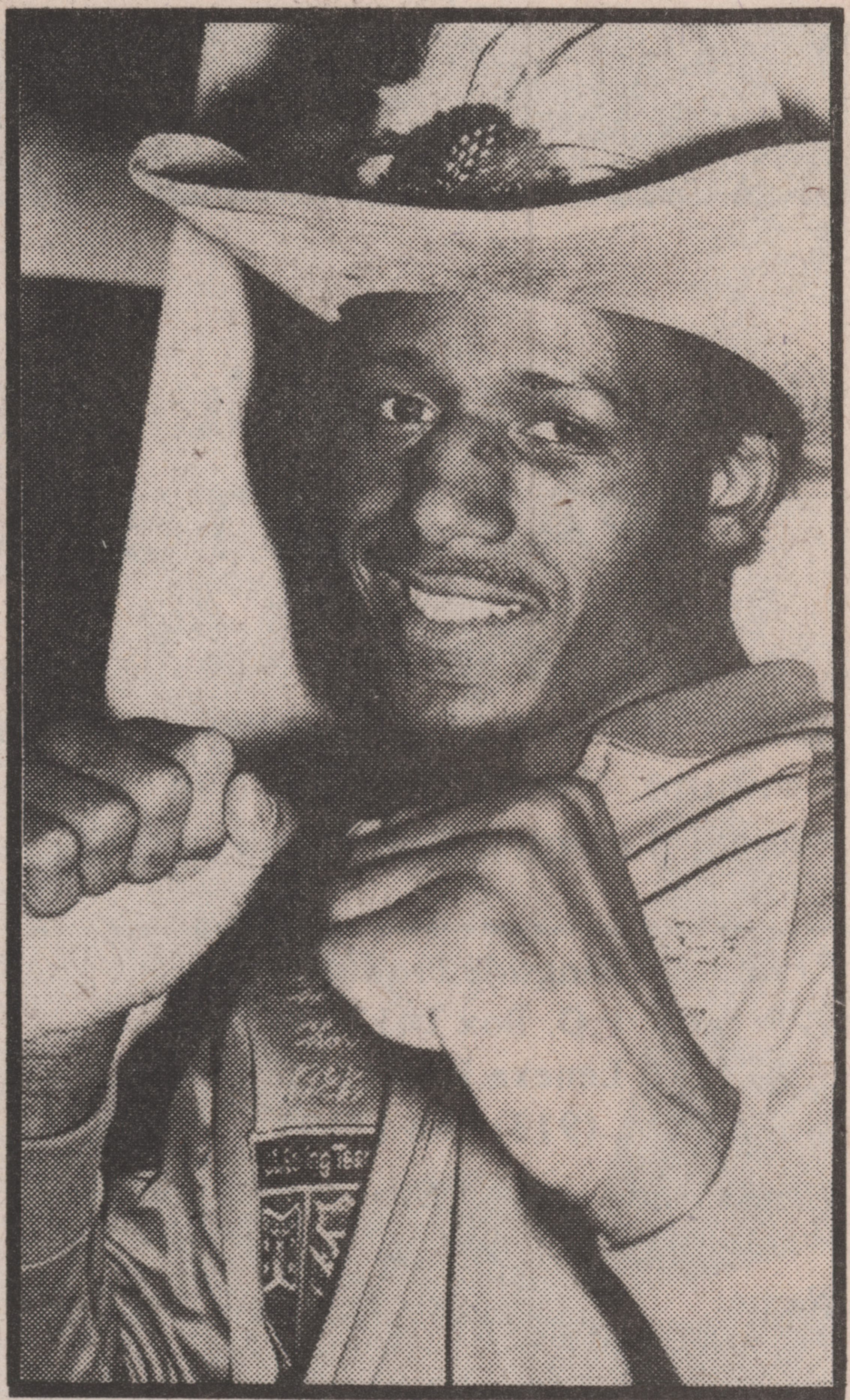
The one sad note about this classic rivalry is that it could end. The Daily News, sponsor of the Gloves, has had its financial troubles. Parent company of the news, the country's largest circulation daily, is the Tribune.

The Chicago squad was helped on the scoreboard by the absence of New York welter standout Mark Breland, who had to bow out of the trip because of a sore right had. Breland figured to get little trouble from his Chicago counterpart, Jeff Lanas, who did manage to outpoint Breland's replacement, Rodney Bowen.

Two bouts didn't go the distance. New York light flyweight Luis Gonzalez stopped Chicago's Jesus Rea in the 2nd and Chicago light heavy Edward Smith called it a night for New Yorker Gerry Capobianco in the 3rd.

In one of the classiest bouts, featherweight Orlando "O.J." Johnson of Chicago, 1982 USA/ABF na-





(Left) New York light welterweight Santos Vilella who outpointed Chicago's J.C. Camell. (Right) Chicago light heavyweight Edward Smith, KO winner over New York's Gerry Capobianco.



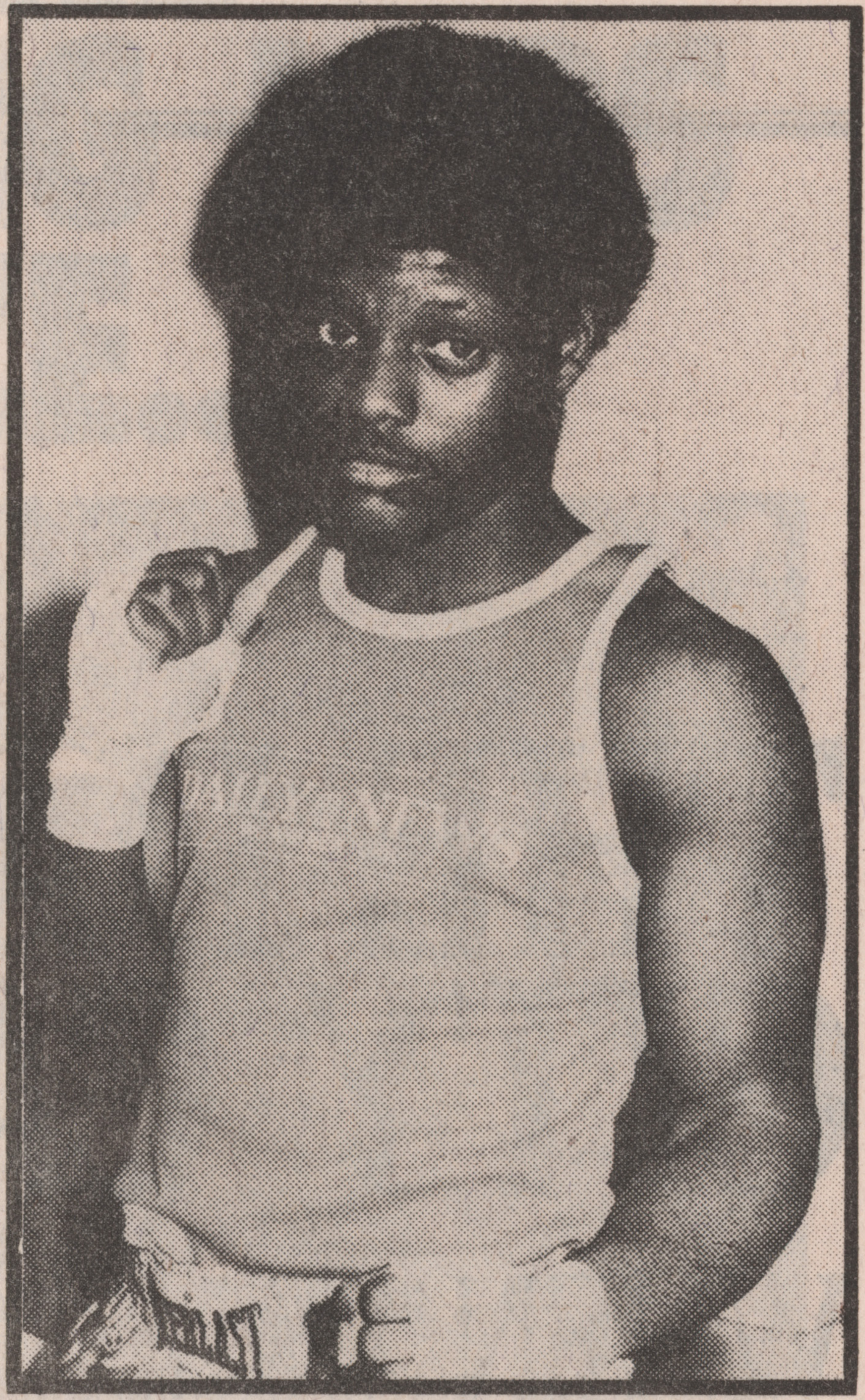
tional champion, was staggered by New York's Luis Hernandez but managed to compile enough points to get the nod.

Other results: 112, Jeff Silva, Chicago, dec. George Soto, New York; 119, Willie Tubbs, Chicago, dec. Wellington Rocafuerte, New York; 132, Derrick "Sweet" Hudson, Chicago, dec. Felix Santiago, New York; 139, Santos Vilella, New York, dec. J.C. Camell, Chicago; 156, Dennis Milton, New York, dec. Lonnie Horn, Chicago; 165, Ted Hutcherson, Chicago, dec. Anthony Holt, Ne York; heavy, I.V. Nalls, Chicago, dec. Francisco Rosa, New York; super heavy, Al "Chico" Evans, Chicago, dec. Delen Parsley, New York.

□

The win for Chicago represented its second victory since the New York-Chicago rivalry resumed under a new format in 1977. Outcomes in prior years were: 1981, New York 9, Chicago 2; 1980, Chicago 6, New York 5; 1979, New York 9, Chicago 2; 1978, New York 7, Chicago 4; 1977, New York 7, Chicago 4.

From 1926 through 1961, other Golden Gloves franchises fed their winners into Chicago and New York and the two city contest actually was an East-West fray. The record for those years was Chicago 16, New York 10 and there were eight ties.



(Left) Chicago lightweight Derrick "Sweet" Hudson who won a decision over N.Y.'s Felix Santiago. (Right) New York light middleweight Dennis Milton, victor over the Windy City's Lonnie Horn.

THE EAST GERMAN OUTRAGE

BOOING shook the walls of Onondaga County War Memorial Auditorium. Objects arced toward the ring. And even brave newspapermen looked for cover. The decision making by East German judges at a recent East German-U.S. dual match in Syracuse, N.Y., was so rank, so putrid, so outrageous to the common sense of any half intelligent human being that the 2,600 Syracusans present almost rioted. When the night was over, the U.S. team had "lost," 8-4, to the East Germans. The East German judges had not awarded a *single* round to a U.S. boxer.

"Actually, we only lost two fights," said U.S. coach Pat Nappi.

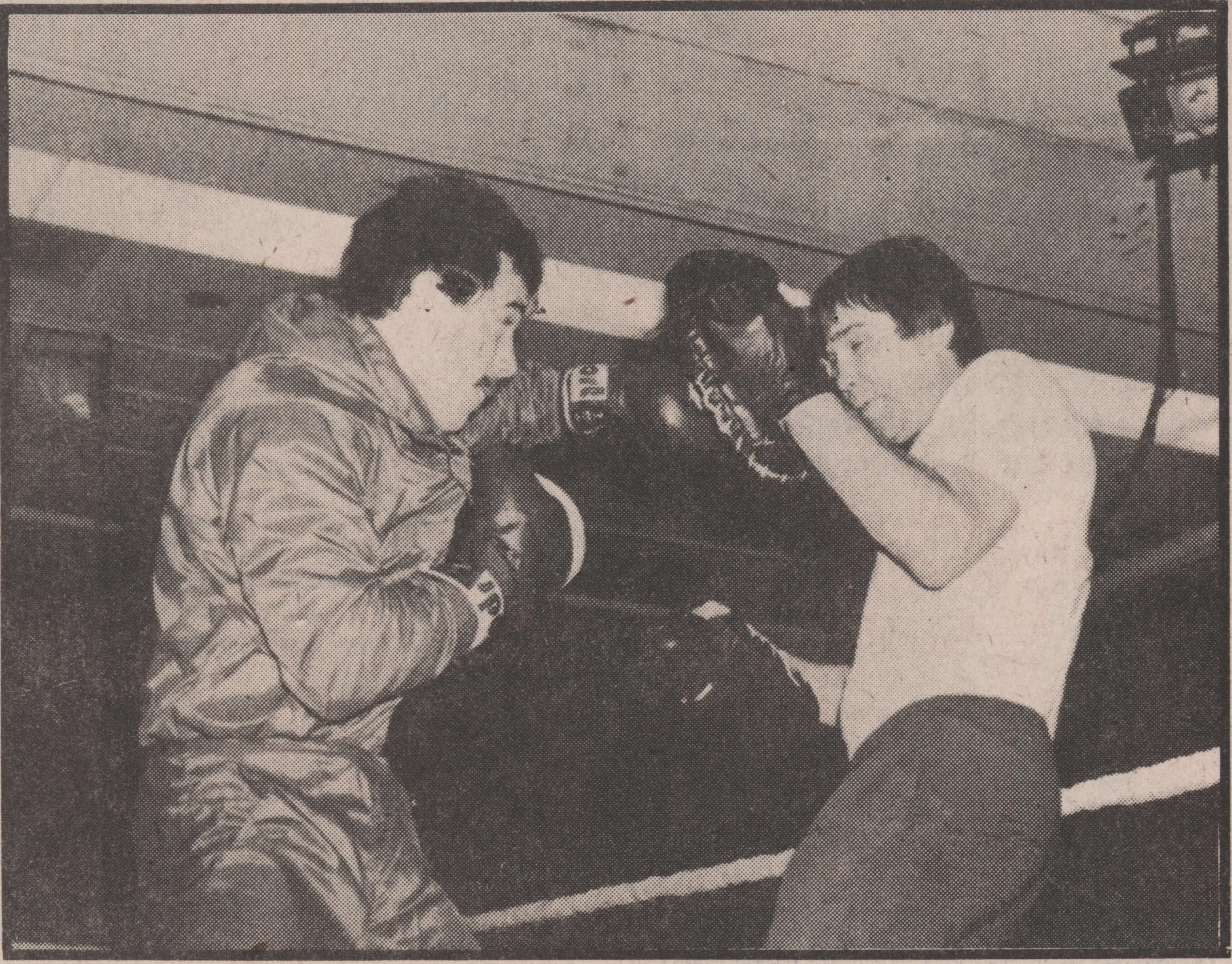
But something good came out of the sorry affair. The decision was made by the U.S. amateur boxing hierarchy that neutral judges would be added henceforth when the U.S. was engaged in international competition.

Several days later, the East Germans and Americans met again at the Playboy Club in Atlantic City, N.J. This time the East Germans didn't need as much help from their compatriot judges. They defeated a weaker U.S. team, 7-2.

The East German judges were more fair, perhaps not wanting to awaken the same crowd passions in Atlantic City they did in Syracuse.

Nevertheless, said Bruce Silverglade, team manager for the U.S., the East German judges couldn't resist robbing Jose Rosario in his bout with Dietmar Geilich, 1981 East German light flyweight champ.

Results in Syracuse: 106, Steve McCrory, Detroit, dec. Dietmar Geilich, E. Germany; 112, Wolfgang Prosch, EG, dec. Ronnie Rentz, Albuquerque; 119, Darryl Loving, Rochester, N.Y., dec. Dirk Schaefer, EG; 125, Frank Rauschning, EG, dec. Shelton LeBlanc, Carencro, La.; 132, Richard Nowakowski, EG, RSC-2 Donnie Branch, W. Carrollton, Ohio; 139, Cedric Rose, Dallas, RSC Deitmar Schwartz, EG; 147, Karl Heinz Krueger, EG, dec. Roman George, Lafayette, La.; 156, Ralf Hanger, EG, dec. Dennis Milton,



East German light middleweight Roland Wandelt takes target practice at punching gloves worn by his coach.

RESULTS

U.S. TEAM BOX-OFF FOR THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

▲ **Colorado Springs—**106, Mario Lesperance, Vallejo, Calif., dec. Bryan Jones, Philadelphia, 5-0; 112, Michael Collins, LaPorte, Tex., dec. Fred Perkins, Army, 3-2; 119, Lupe Gutierrez, Turlock, Calif., dec. Floyd Favors, Capitol Heights, Md., 4-1, and, in the second bout, Favors dec. Gutierrez, 3-2; 125, Bernard Gray, Boynton Beach, Fla., dec. James Johnson, St. Louis, 5-0; 132, Pernell Whitaker, Norfolk, Va., dec. Joey Belino, Marysville, Wash., 3-2; 156, Dennis Milton, Bronx, N.Y., dec. Roger McCane, Tacoma, Wash., 5-0; 178, Bennie Heard, Augusta, Ga., dec. Sherman Griffin, Minneapolis, 4-1; heavyweight, Howard Lake, Air Force, DQ-2 Michael Arms, Madison, Wisc., 1:42.

Henry Hughes of Cleveland, 139, Mark Breland of Brooklyn, N.Y., 147, Iran Barkley of Bronx, N.Y., 165, and Tyrell Biggs of Philadelphia, super heavyweight, did not compete in a box-off and were placed automatically on the team headed for the World Championships in Munich, West Germany.
(04-27-82)

APOLLO BOXING CLUB SHOW

▲ **BRONX, N.Y.—**106, Greg Young, Catskill BC, dec. Nelson Martinez, Apollo BC; 119, Darren Buff, CBC, dec. Julio Sanivera, ABC; 132, John Chetti, CBC, Ret-2 Jesus Gonzalez, ABC; 132, Carlos Torres, ABC, dec. Kevin Young, CBC; 65, Billy Ham, CBC, dec. Mark Farrait, San Juan BC; 90, Gary Young, CBC, dec. Alfredo Rodriguez, ABC; 85, Jose Paneto, ABC, RSC-1 John Shanagler, CBC; 75, Santiago Rivera, SJBC, dec. Baulio Lopez, ABC.
(03-13-82)

ROSE TRENTMAN



Top: The Loving Brothers, Darryl (119) and Joe (125), Rochester, N.Y. Middle: East German delegation. Bottom: East Germany's Juergen Fanghanel (heavyweight) and Richard Nowakowski (right).

New York City; 165, Iran Barkley, Bronx, N.Y., dec. Andreas Schroth; 178, Ralph Nebrig, EG, dec. Keith Vining, Detroit; heavy, Juergen Fanghanel, EG, RSC-2 Al Evans, Chicago; super heavy, Rodney Frazier, Philadelphia, KO-1 Ulli Kaden, EG. The U.S. had to give up the win by McCrory because the Detroiter failed to make 106.

Results in Atlantic City: 106, Dietmar Geilich, EG, dec. Jose Rosario, Jersey City, N.J., 119, Darryl Loving, Rochester, N.Y., dec. Dirk Schaefer, EG; 125, Joe Loving, Rochester, N.Y., RSC-1 Frank Rauschning, EG; 132, Richard Nowakowski, EG, RSC-3 Charlie Brown, Silvis, Ill.; 139, Deitmar Schwarz, EG, dec. Jim Starky, W. Chester, Pa.; 147, Karl Heinz Krueger, EG, RSC-2 Darryl Robinson, Houston, on a cut eye; 156, Roland Wandelt, EG, dec. Eric Ferguson, Chester, Pa.; 165, Andreas Schroth, EG, dec. Monte Oswald, Bay City, Mich.; heavy, Juergen Fanghanel, EG, KO-1 Jesse Ferguson, Knightdale, N.C.

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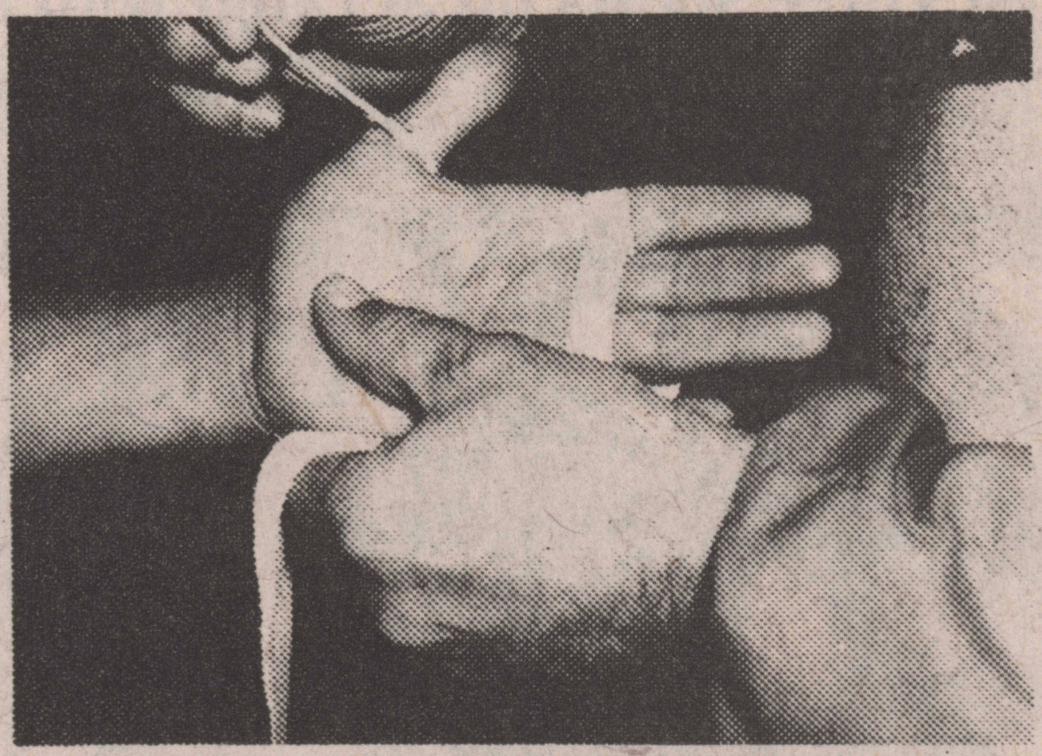
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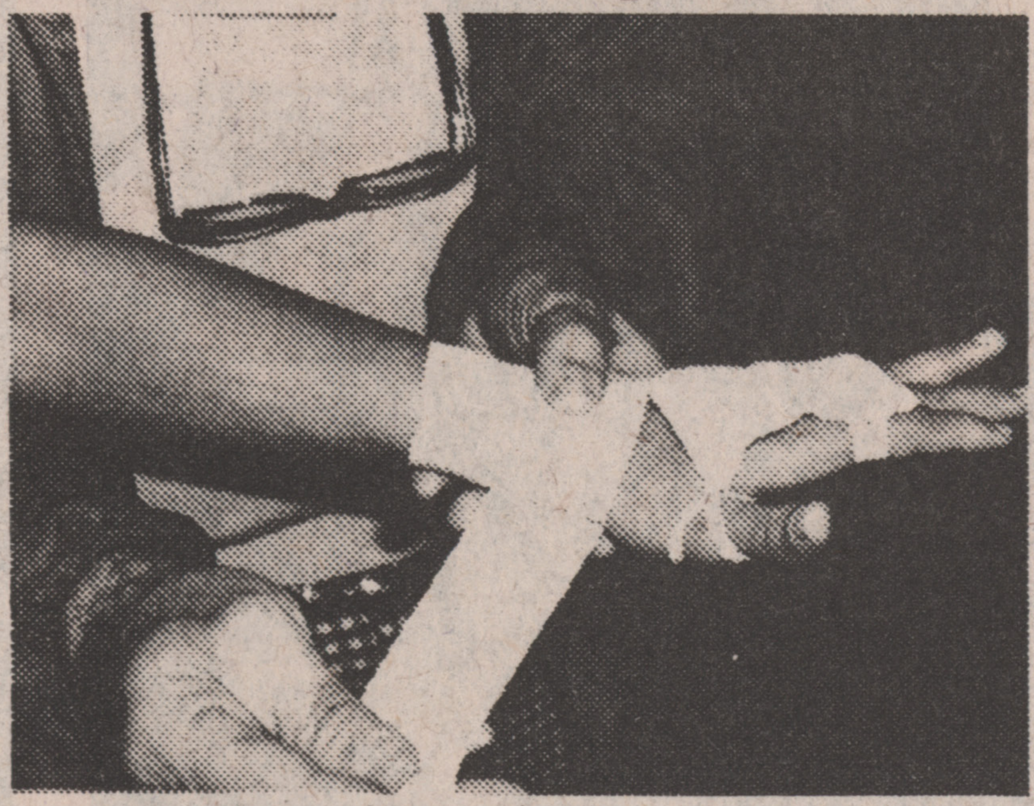
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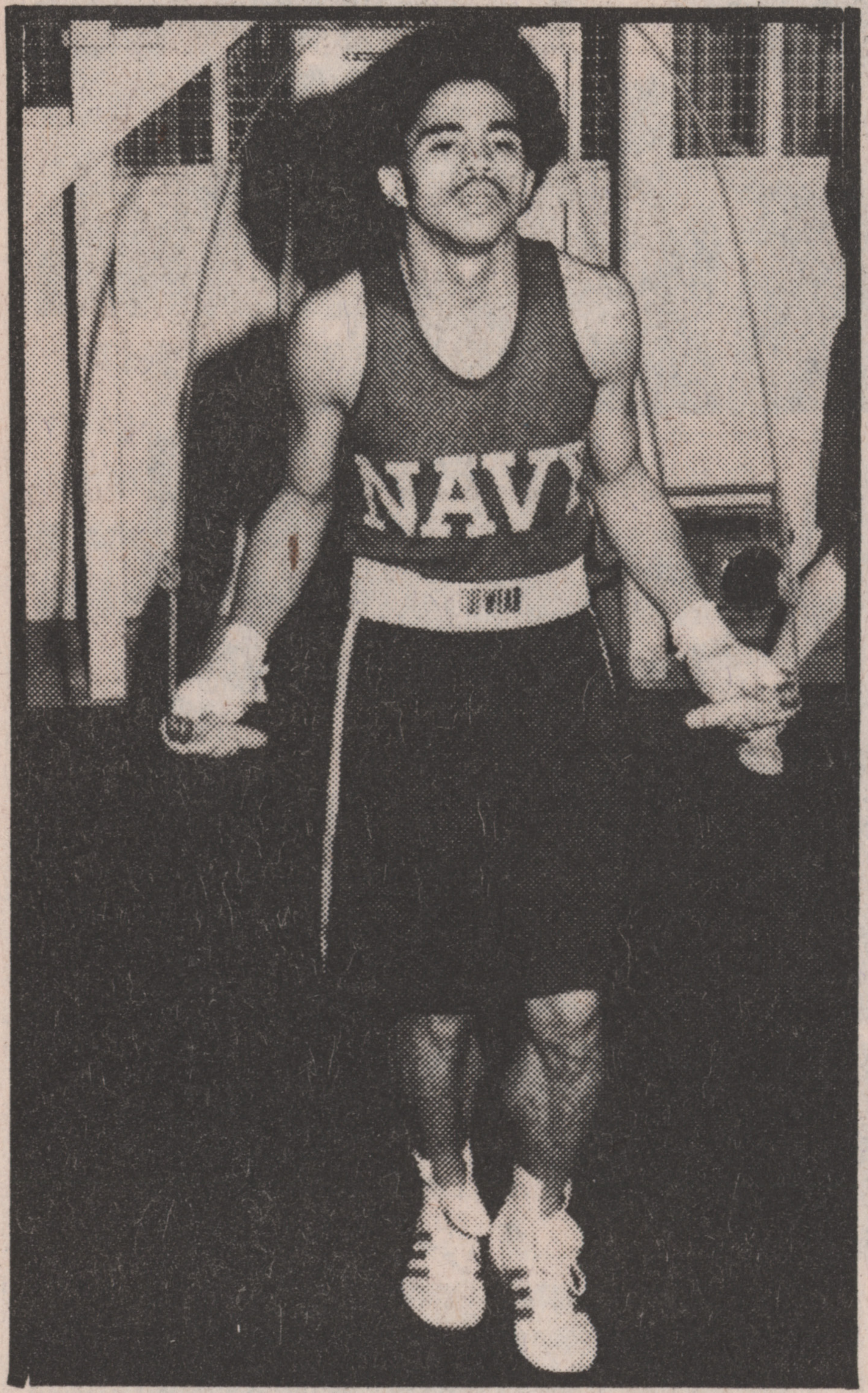
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THE NAVY'S BIG GUNS RUN AGROUND

YOU'RE a boxing coach.¶ You're looking over the prospects for the team and find the names of three recent national champions. ¶ You're feeling kind of smug, right? ¶ Then... ¶ One of your Big Three shows up at camp with two broken ribs. He's out of commission for six to eight weeks. ¶ Another walks into camp, announces his retirement fromt the ring, and walks out. ¶ And then...





[*Navy boxers Wilfredo Marcano, 119 (left) and Bobby Gable, 125.*]

YOUR TOP 139-POUNDER, A GOLDEN BEAR CHAMPION (outstanding boxer in the middle weights, no less), checks in with a broken wrist. It will be at least two months before he fights again.

Your leading candidate for the vacancy at 139 breaks his wrist. He's gone for two months, too.

Your only 132 pounder breaks his jaw sparring. He's in for six weeks of a liquid diet (the doctors wired his mouth shut).

If you-re not beating your head on a ringpost by now it's only because you've been here many, many times before.

All of this happened recently to Dick Pettigrew, the longtime head coach of the All-Navy boxing team.

Somehow, Pettigrew survived this broadside and managed to put together an All-Navy Championships and come up with a team.

Mostly, he juggled. Even that didn't do any good in the 106 and 112 lb. classes, traditionally the weak links in the Navy's program, because nobody showed up at Port Hueneme, Calif., site of the camp and tournament.

When Mark Mahone, the 1981 USA/ABF and National Sports Festival heavyweight champion, reported with ravaged ribs as a result of a recent bout in the Soviet Union, Pettigrew moved Elmer Martin up from 178 and put him in with Alex Johnson. Martin, winner of four All-Navy, three Interservice one National AAU and one CISM (international military) titles since 1978 as a light heavyweight, stopped Johnson.

When James Rayford, last year's USA/ABF 156 lb. champion, turned in his gloves, Pettigrew was left with newcomers David Cox and Antoine Perry, and Tyrone Gaynor, a 1981 Southern California and Arizona regional champion. Cox decisioned Perry and Gaynor, 44-7-1, stopped Cox.

When Jeff Geter, the first Navy boxer to win a Golden Bear title (1981), returned from the President's Cup in Indonesia with one hand in a cast, Pettigrew turned to Louie Antuna, John Staley and Stanley Wanamaker for a 139 pounder. Staley came out on top but then broke his wrist in the California USA/ABF Regional.

When J.W. Key, 132, came out of a sparring match with Antuna with a hairline fracture of his jaw Pettigrew was severely tested.

First, he made 21-year-old New Yorker Antuna his 132 pounder.

Then Pettigrew dropped Ray Collins, who had already repeated as the Navy's 147 lb. champion by stopping Romeo Bellis and outpointing Mark Mallory, to 139.

That opened—or reopened—the door for Mallory, 23, of Philadelphia by way of Holy Loch, Scotland, where he won the 1980 and 1981 Northern European (military) and 1981 Scottish Amateur Cup and Scotland (West District) championships. According to one Navy source, "Mallory actually beat the socks off Collins in the gym—three times—but was off his feet when they got in front of the judges. And his 80-9-3 record is deserving."

The juggling continued at 178, which opened up when Martin was moved to heavyweight to replace the injured Mahone. Johnson, already light for a heavyweight at 182, was dropped down a notch after his defeat by Martin and paired with Ernest Robers, a newcomer. Looking back, Johnson probably wouldn't consider the move a reprieve—Roberts stopped him, just as Martin had, to become the light hevy champion.

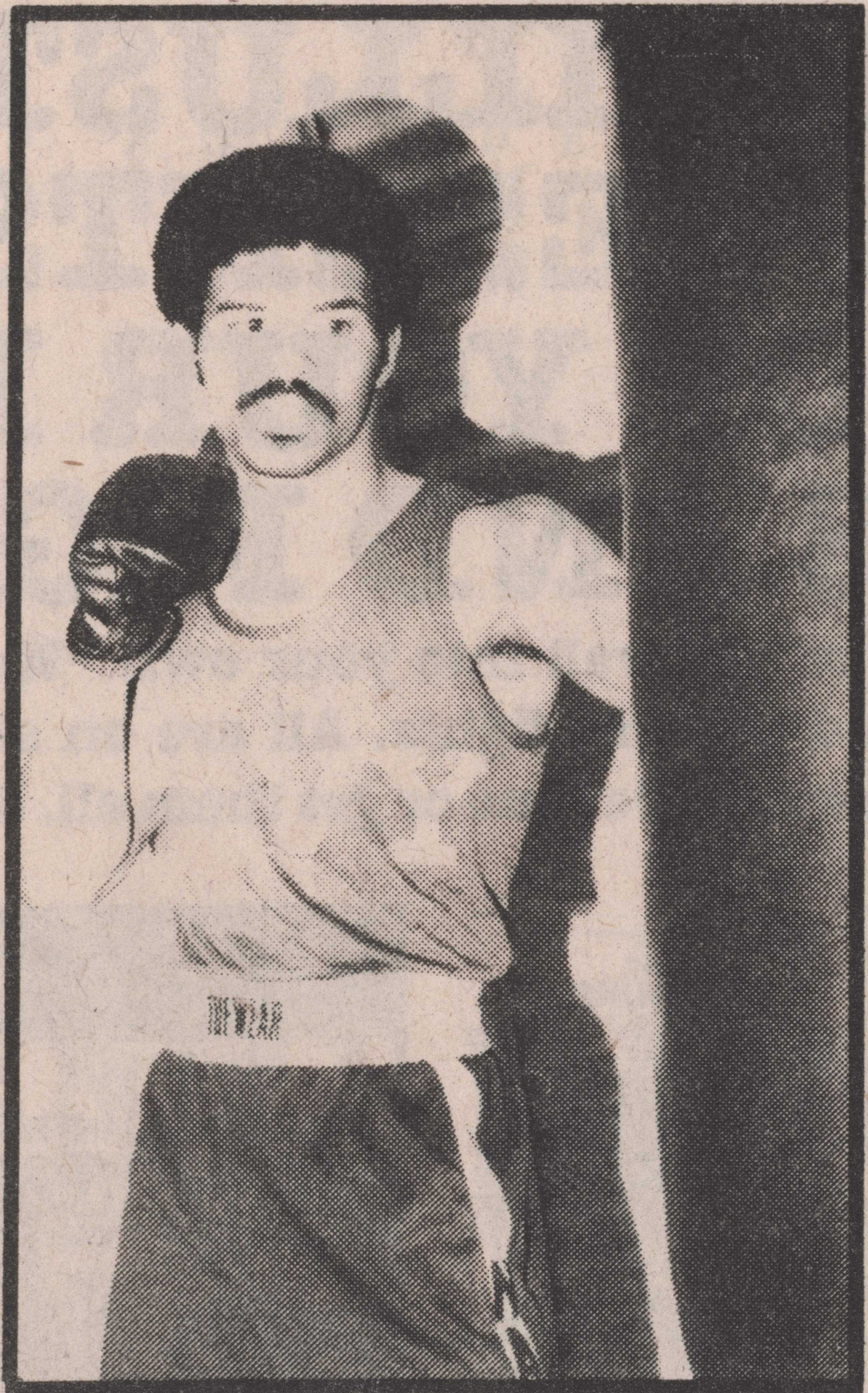
The only reprieves Pettigrew received were in the 119, 125 and 165 classes, the only ones unaffected by injuries and retirements.

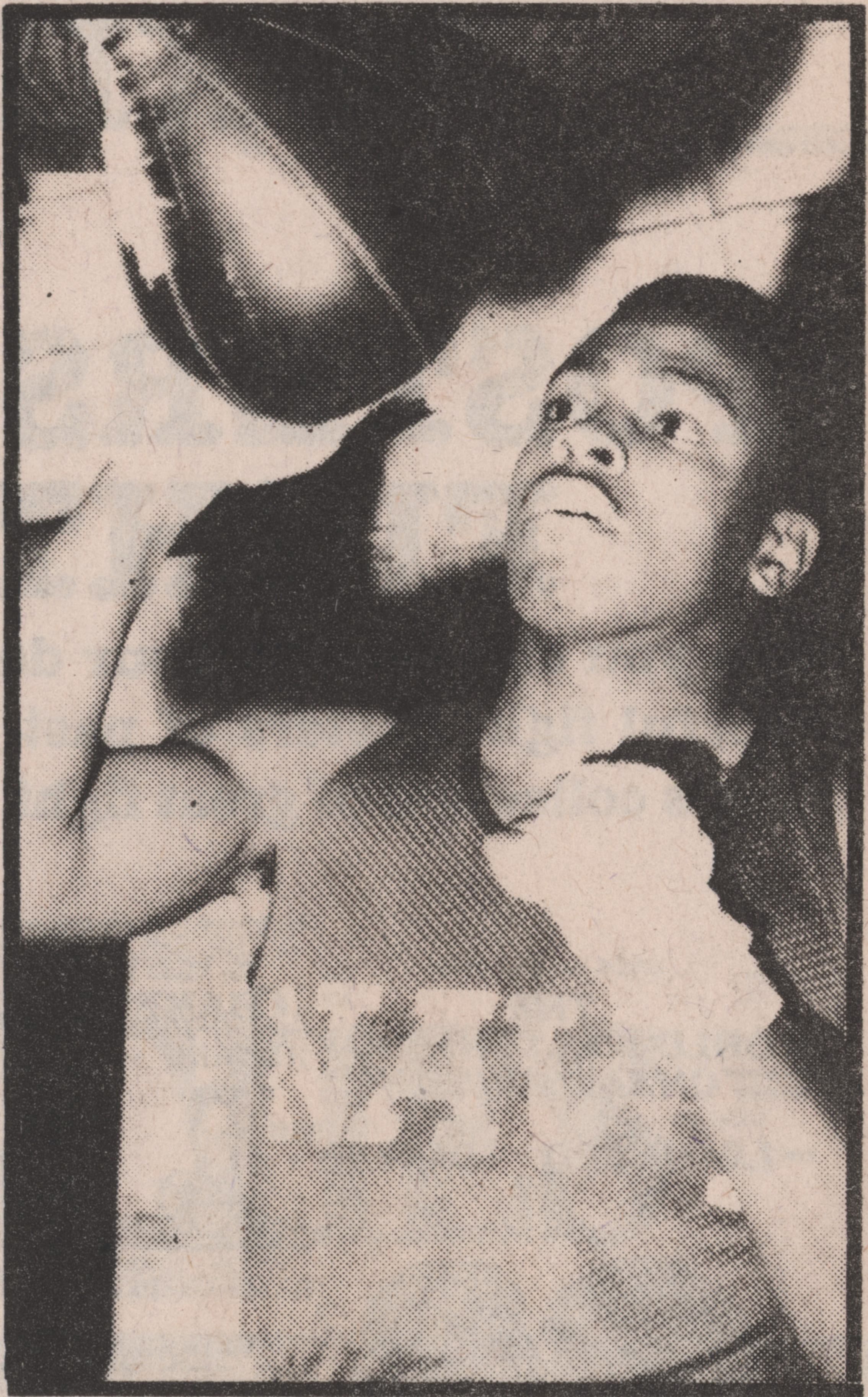
At 119, Wilfredo Marcano, 22, of Paterson, N.J., brought his record to 69-11-4 with a decision over Steve Garcia. This is Marcano's first title since 1978, the year before he joined the Navy, when he won the Morris County, New Jersey, AAU and Diamond Gloves and the New Jersey Golden Gloves.

Bobby Gable, 21, of Columbus, Ohio, a former Columbus Golden Gloves and Indiana AAU champion (1977 and 1978, respectively), had to go to the well twice against Ruben Fontanez to secure his spot as the 125 lb. Navy champ. He outpointed Fontanez onced and stopped him the other time, bringing his record to 26-8-2.

Inexperienced but hard-hitting Nathan Houser made short work of Larry Tindell and Terry Robison to claim the 165 lb. crown. He stopped both of them for a 10-2-2 record. Houser, 20, is a former Junior Olympics and Golden Gloves champion of his hometown, Detroit.

David Graves, even less experienced (5-0), made the Navy team the easiest way possible. The 22-year-old from Lowell, Mass., was the only super heavyweight in camp. □





[Navy boxers Mark Mallory, 147 (left) and Nathan Houser, 165.]

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SLIPPING PUNCHES

You've probably heard the command to "use your head" in the ring. But, gee, don't use your head to stop punches. Slip them.

There are a variety of ways to nullify blows. You can block them, parry them, catch them. Slipping leaves both hands free to attack and defend.

Slipping is the art of avoiding a blow by moving your head to the left or right for either an "inside" slip or an "outside" slip. Instead of moving your body out of range, you rely on being so quick that your opponent's straight left or straight right misses your moving head.

Let's say both you and your opponent are right handers. He throws a left jab at you. You slip inside. His left jab darts harmlessly past the right side of your head and you plant a straight right on his short ribs. *Ugh!*

Or, instead, you slip outside. Your foe's left jab slips by the left side of your head and you sink a left hook into his solar plexus. *Oof!*



The Naugatuck, Conn., YMCA team practices the art of slipping punches. Dave Casetti slips a jab thrown by Sonny Asani and counters with a right to the ribs; Casetti slips to the outside of Asani's left andocunters with a left hook to the body; southpaw Mark Garbatini slips Casetti's jab and shoots a straight right to the chest.

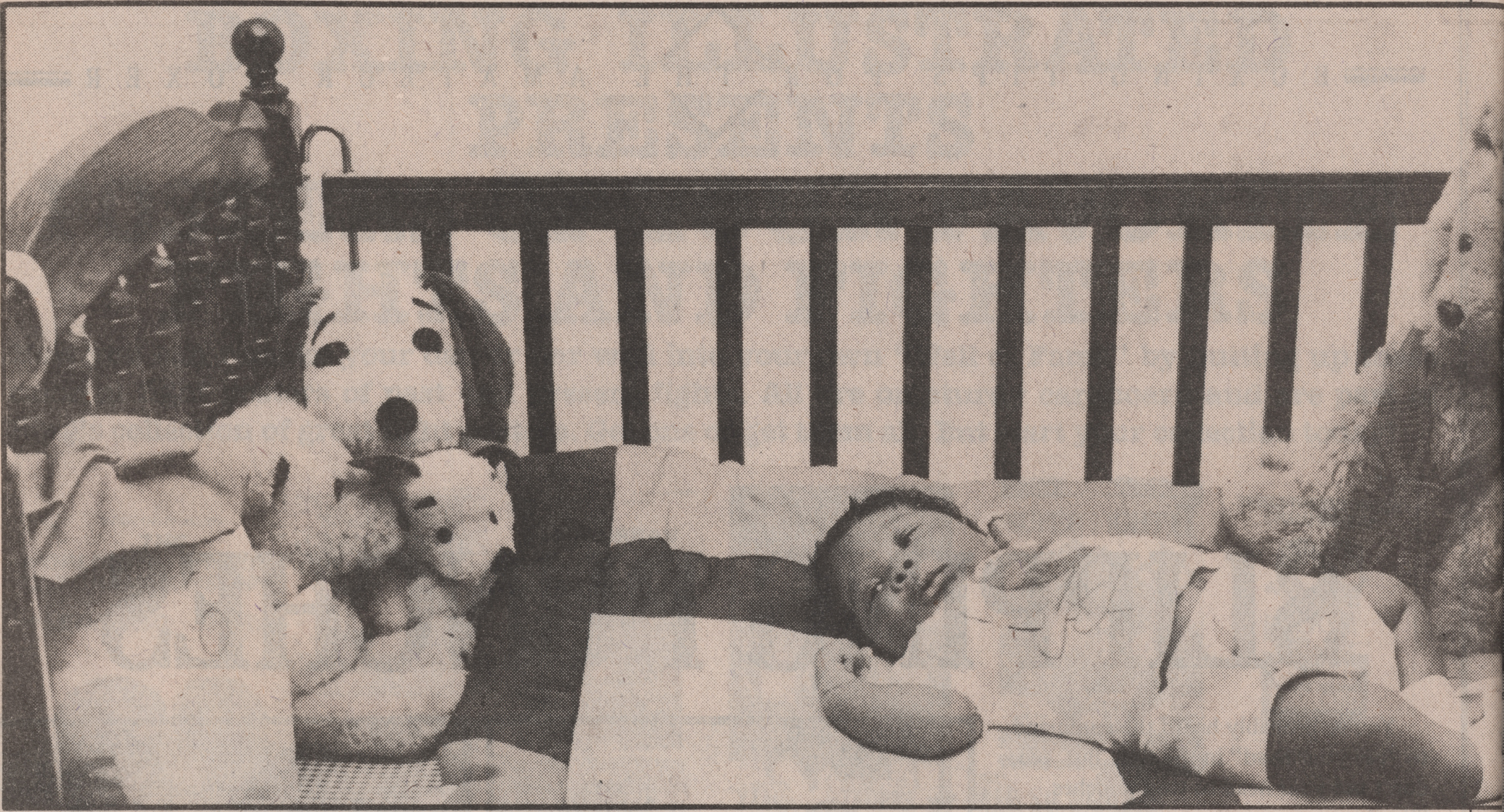
To be effective against each other, right handers and southpaws must be constantly slipping each other's punches.

Keep the margins small. That is, the perfect slip is one in which the punch hardly misses, just about grazes the ear.

Concentration is a must in the ring. For slipping, it's a double must. A well placed blow won't miss if you don't concentrate. And after you've slipped, you must continue to keep your eyes on your opponent.

To sum up, slipping is a beautiful, artful way to avoid getting hit. And it leaves both your hands free to attack and defend. And it frustrates the devil out of your opponent. Not only does he miss scoring points. But missing robs him of a lot of energy.

And, as for your not getting hit, not only don't you get points scored against you but you save the vitality that's lost from getting tagged. □





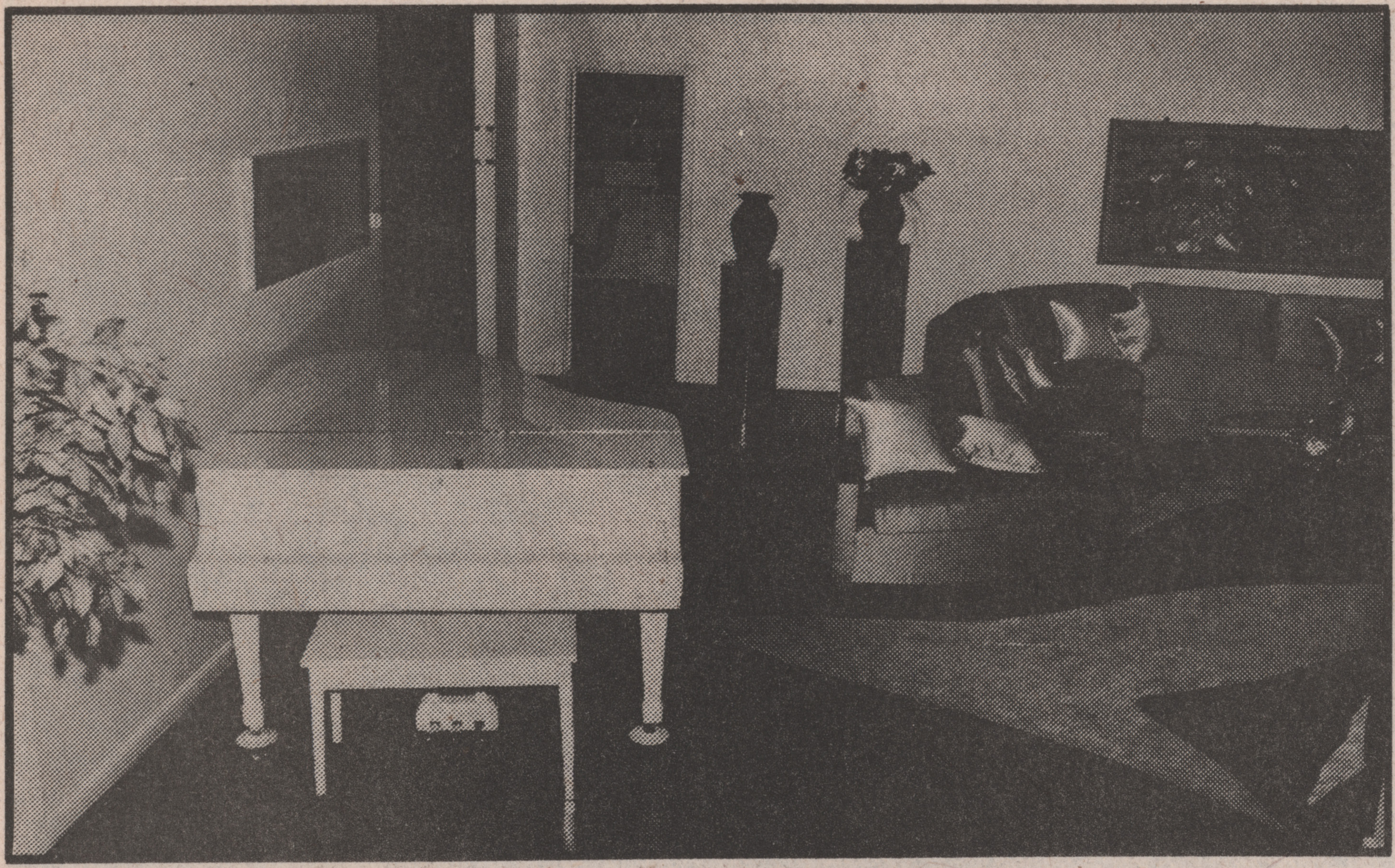




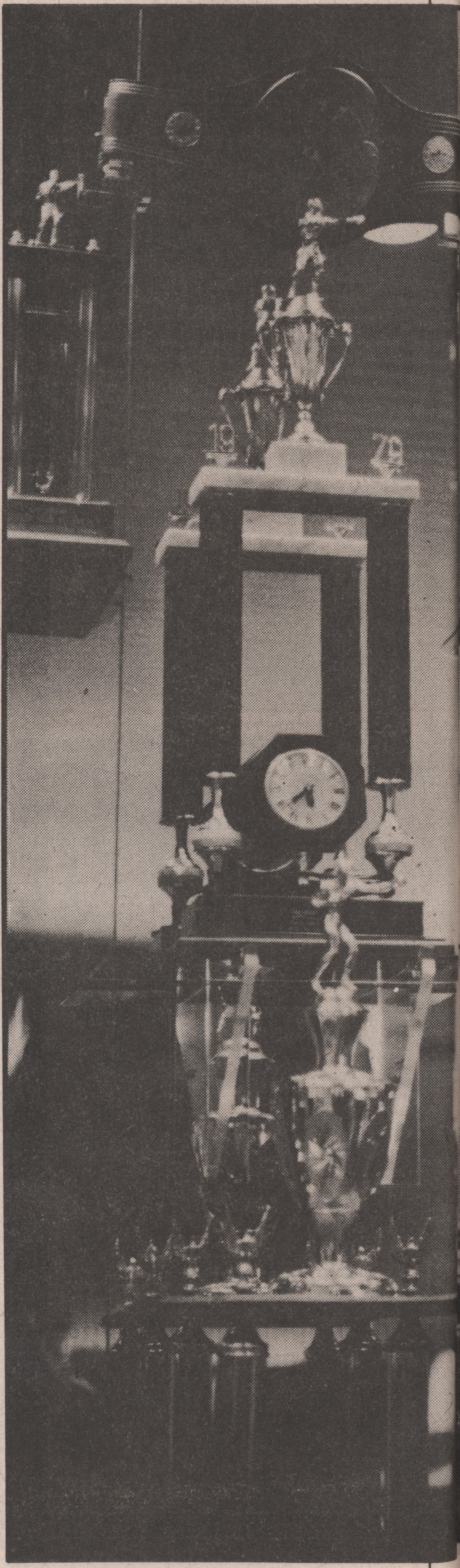


SAAD MUHAMMAD PERSONAL MOUNTAIN

The story of Matthew Saad Muhammad is so unbelievable it could only be true. Abandoned as an infant along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia, the orphaned youngster was raised by nuns, who named him Matthew Franklin (the Matthew after St. Matthew, Franklin after the parkway near which he was found).







Adopted by a loving Portuguese couple named John and Bertha Santos, young Matthew grew into a chiseled, finely sculptured specimen of an athlete. Boxing became his main love, his ticket out of the ghetto. It was there, in the streets of South Philadelphia, Matthew learned what it is like to punch—and be punched.

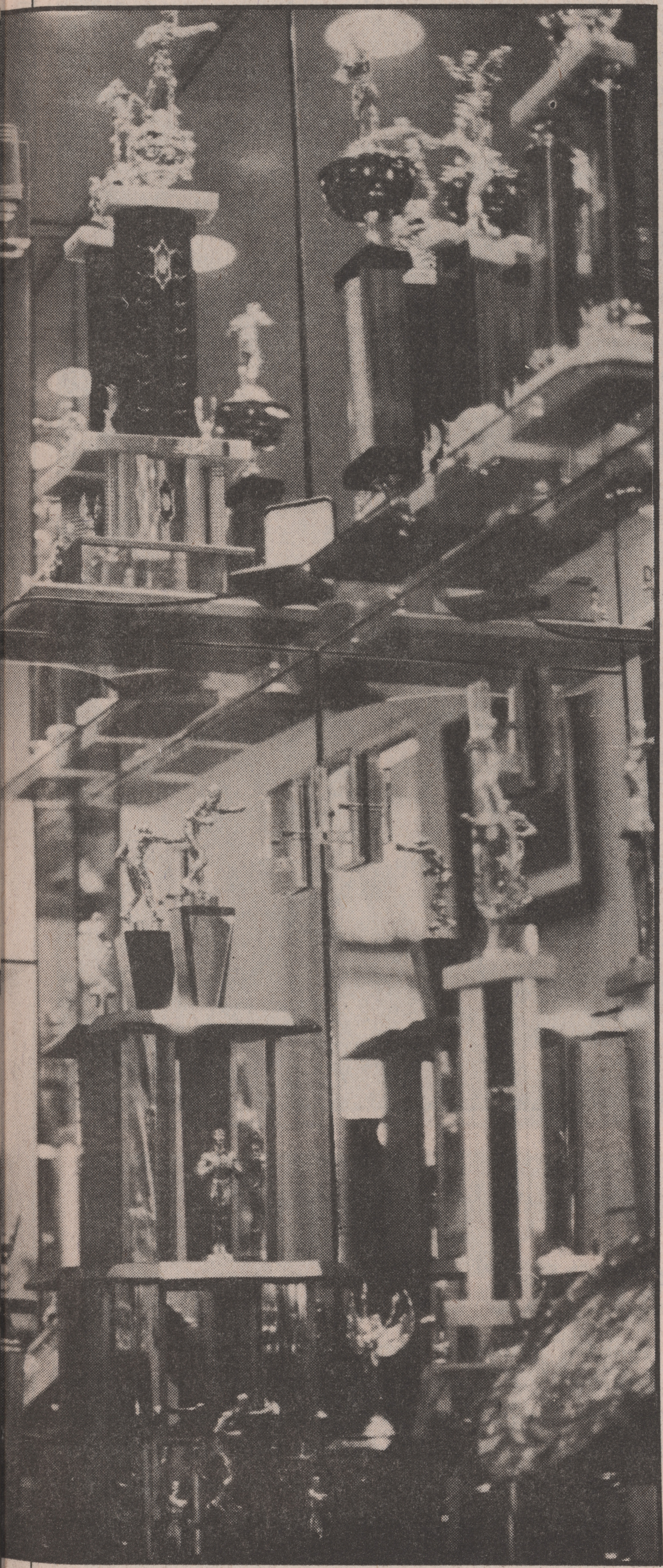
In January, 1974, Matthew decided that if punches were going to be aimed in his direction, he might as well get paid for engaging in such an activity.

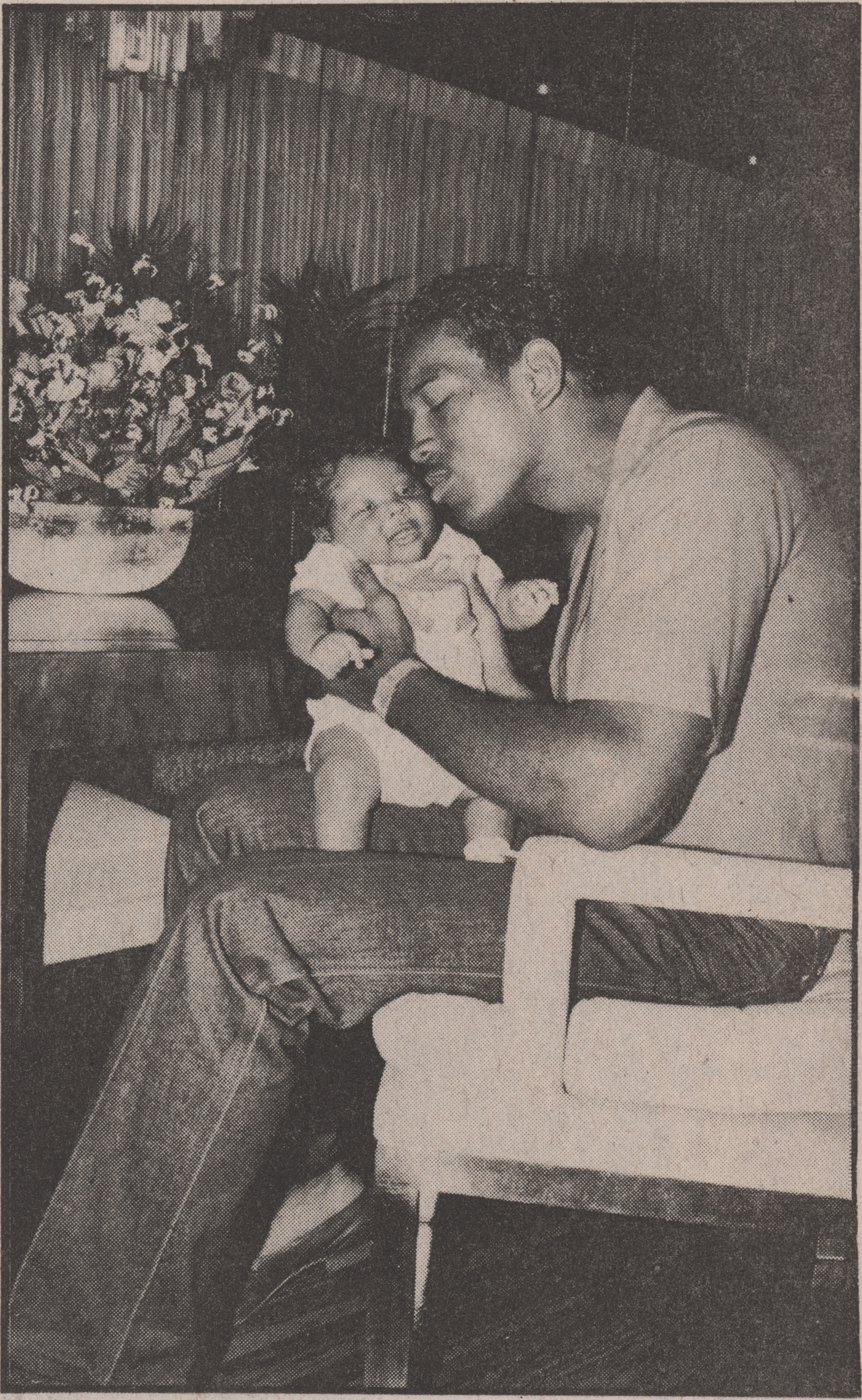
Twenty-two victories and five years later, Matthew stopped Marvin Johson in the eighth round, winning the WBC light heavyweight crown. It was a crown he held until Dwight Braxton knocked it off his head last December.

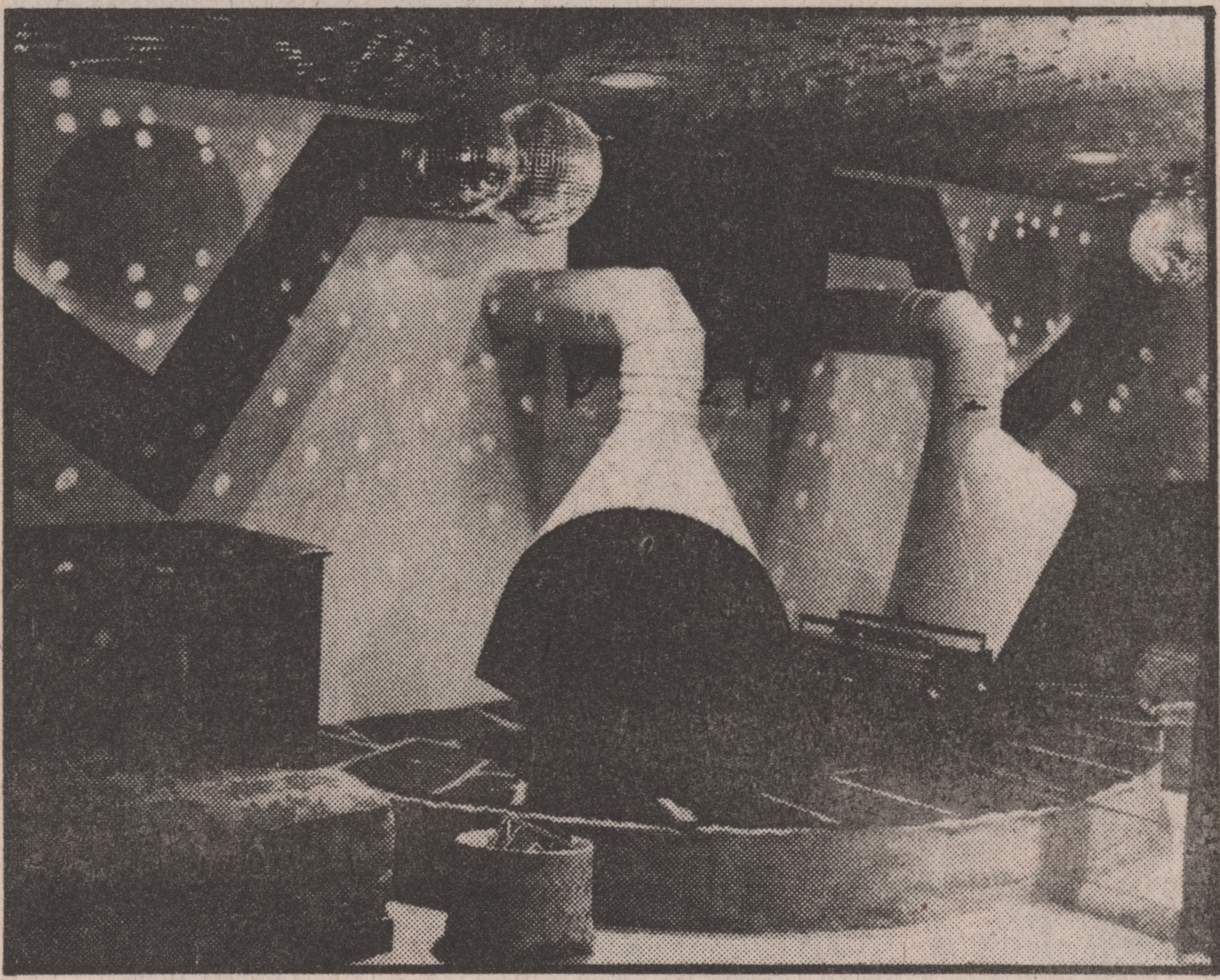
"I want that crown back," said Muhammad recently, as he proudly took Boxing Illustrated's *Associate Editor, Jack Goodman, around the spacious house the ex-champ calls home and shares with his wife, Michele—a former Miss Black World—and their son, Matthew Saad Muhammad, Jr., who was born in April of this year.*

The house, located in Jenkinstown, Pa., is Saad's personal mountain, testimony to his achievements, complete with a disco room, white baby grand piano (which Muhammad plays quite well) and a garage in which a van, a Mercedes convertible and Rolls Royce convertible are parked.

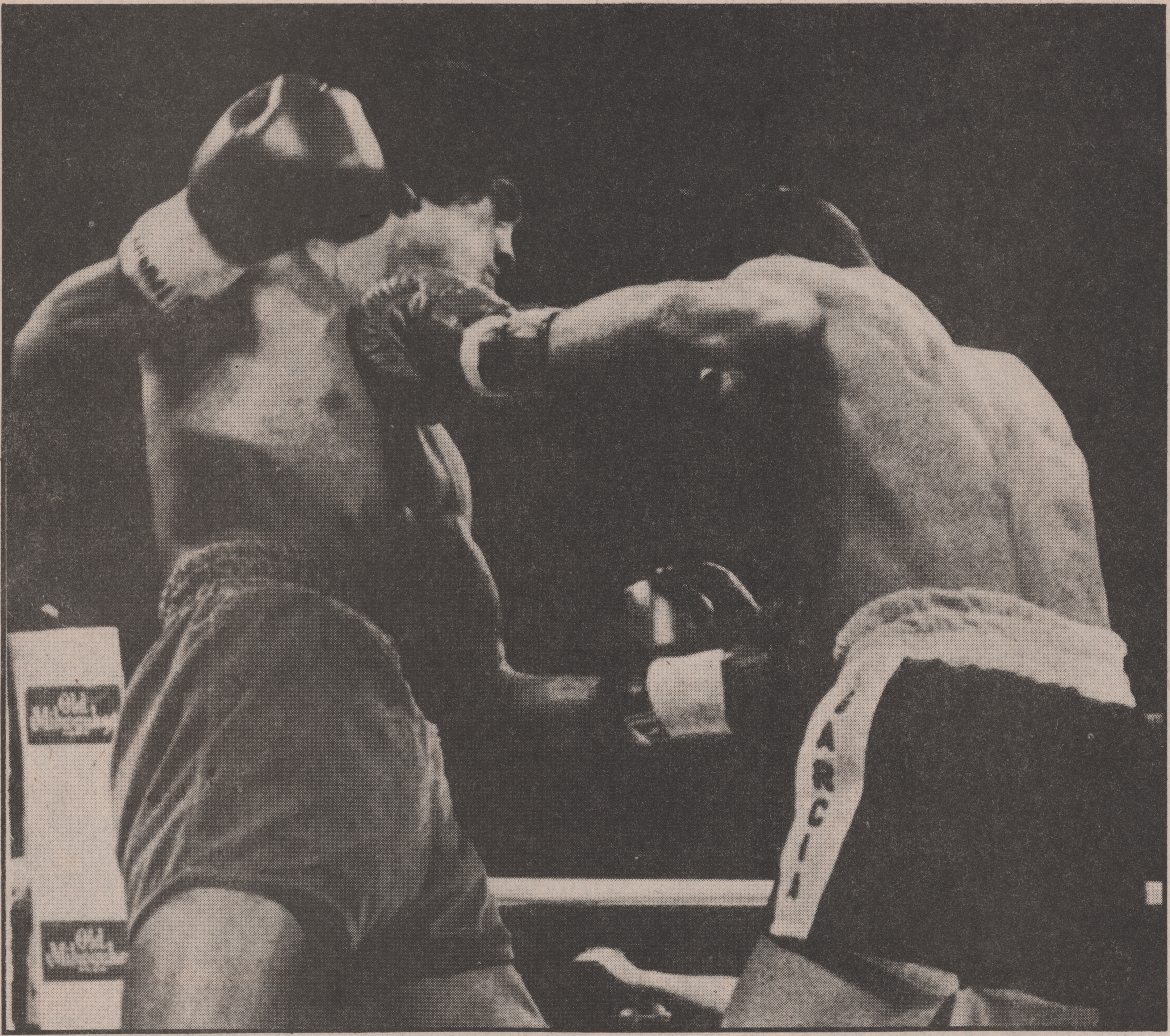
As he cradled baby Matthew, the ex-titleholder said, "Dwight beat the shadow of Matthew Saad Muhammad. The next time around, the shadow is going to stay home, and poor Braxton is going to have to face me . . . I hope he had fun as champion!"







(ASSOCIATED PRESS)

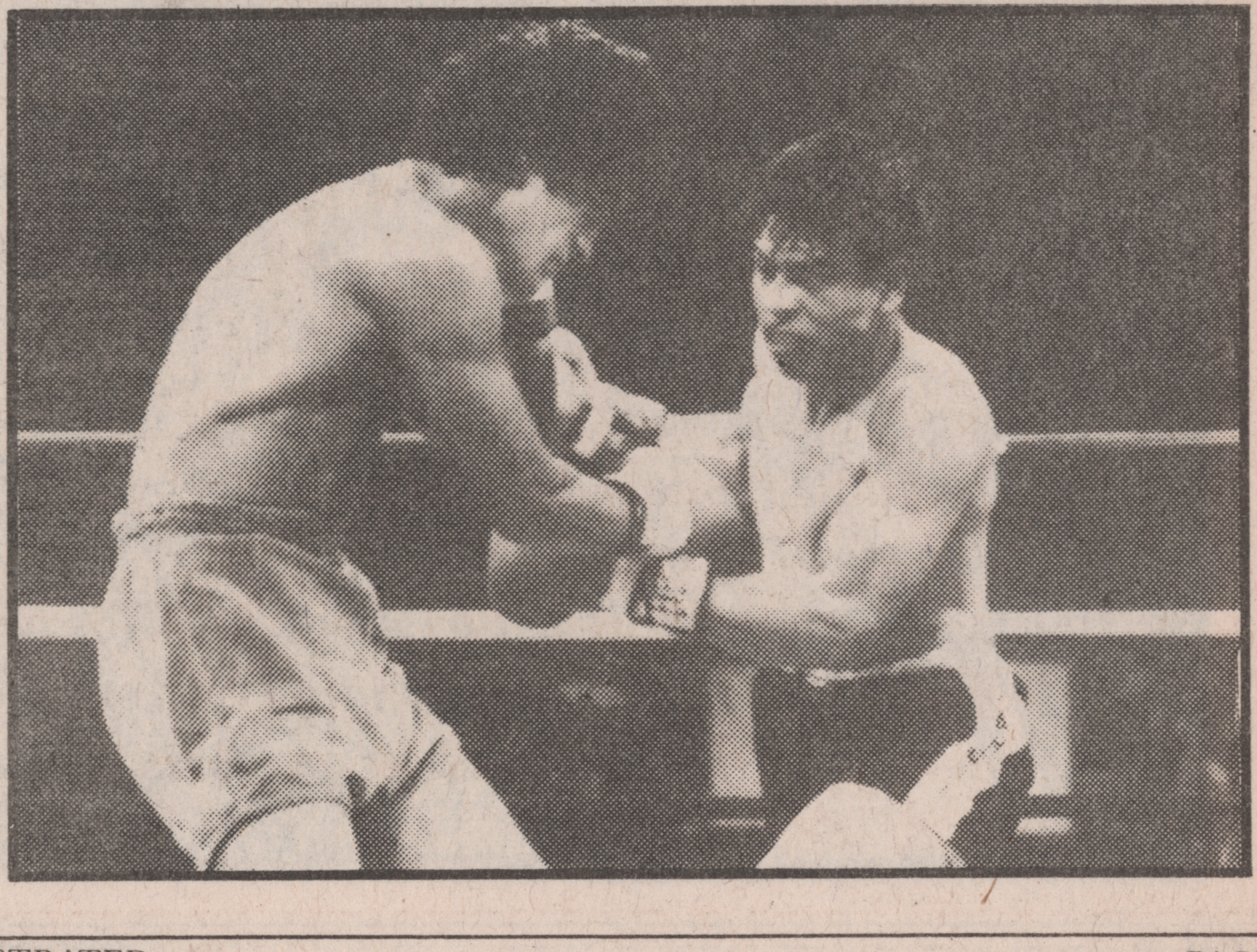


SANCHEZ PUTS END TO GARCIA'S ROCKY STORY

Featherweight champion Salvador Sanchez gave lightly-regarded contender Jorge "Rocky" Garcia a boxing lesson in winning a one-sided 15-round decision in defense of his WBC featherweight crown. But Garcia, who failed in his effort to make the "Rocky" story come to life, might just have gained something more important: recognition. Garcia, unranked by Ring, *the WBA or just about anyone else—excluding the WBC and a splinter group from his hometown of Placentia, California—was able to prove he belonged; if not in the same ring with Sanchez at least in the same ratings as Mario Miranda, Patrick Ford and Paul Ferrari, Reunion Arena, Dallas, Texas. May 8, 1982.*

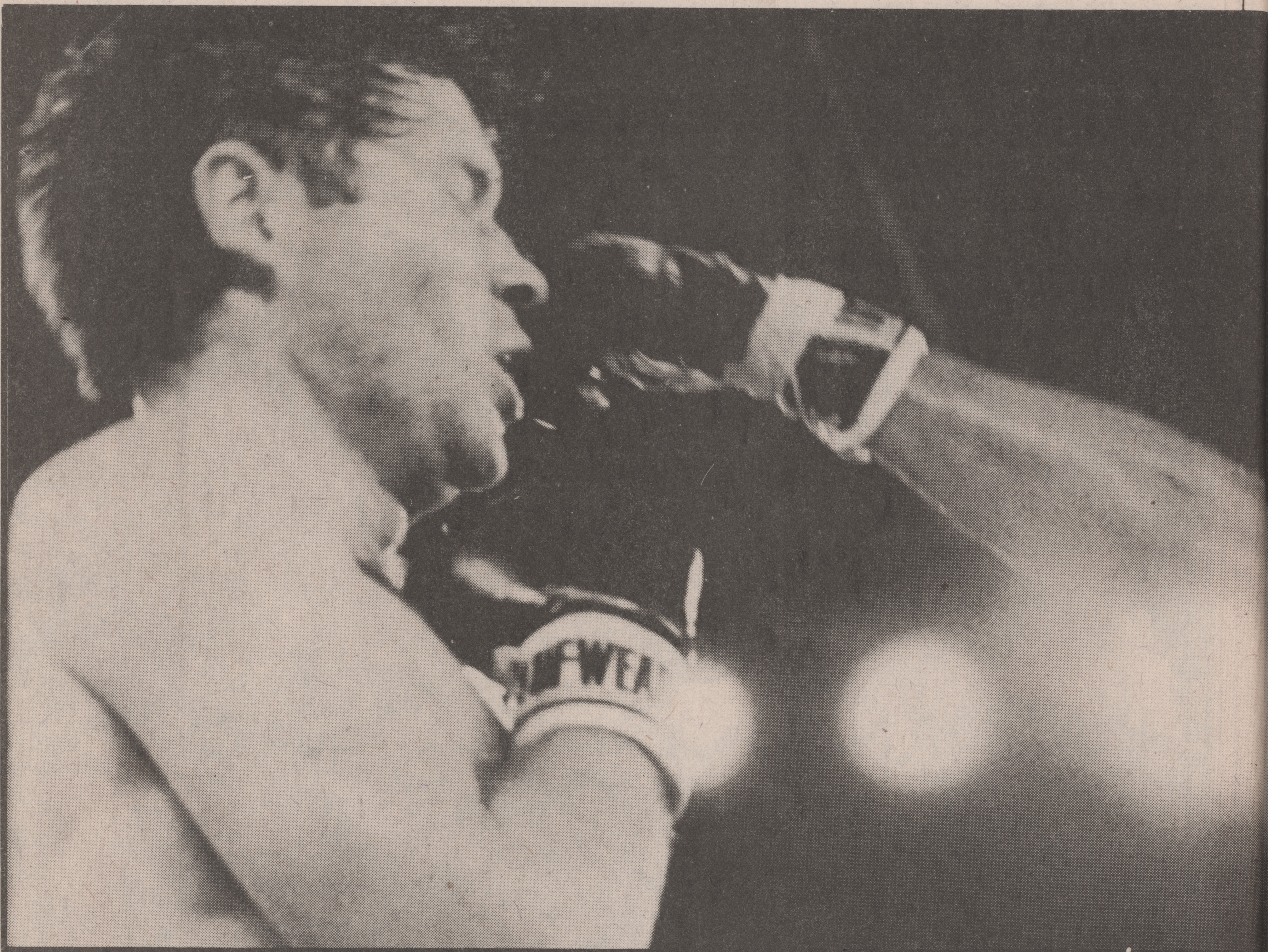


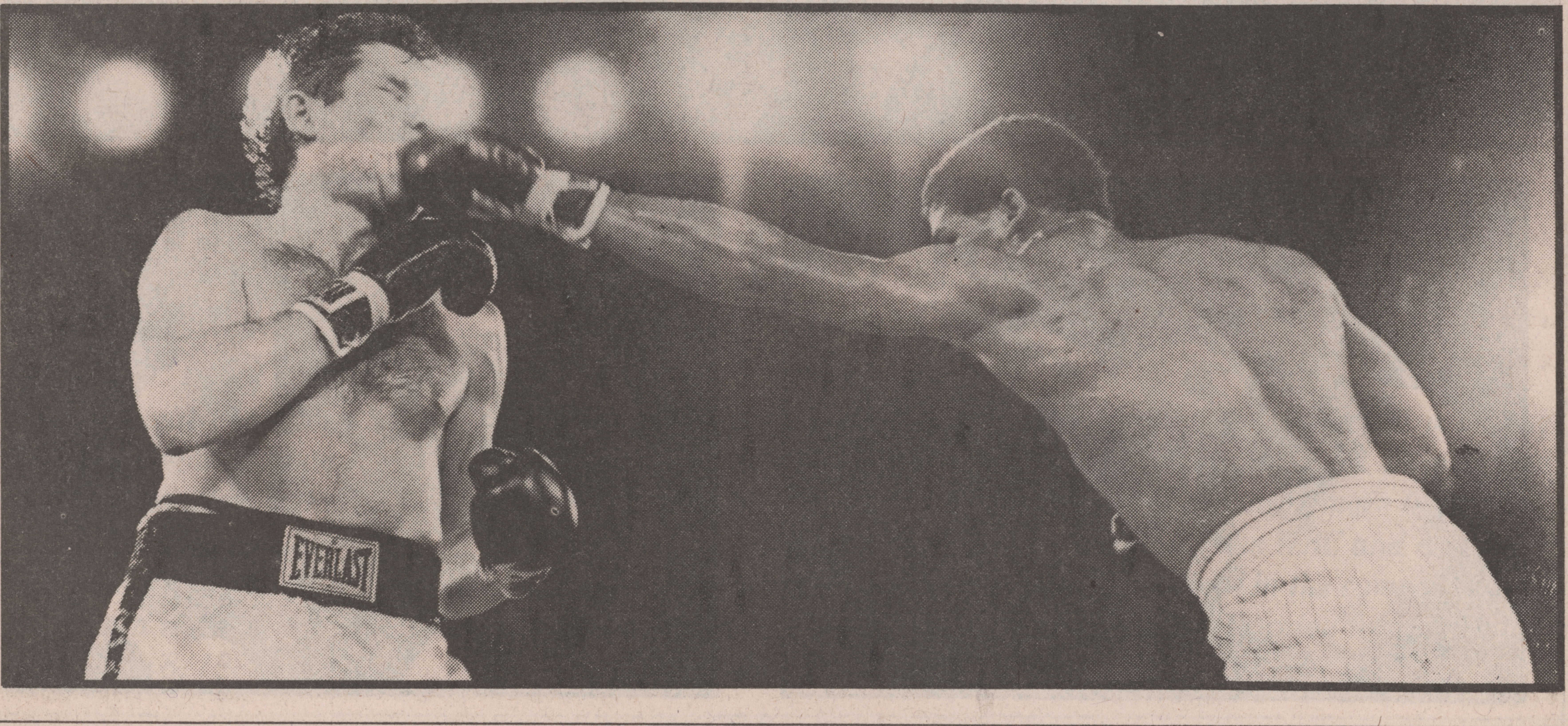


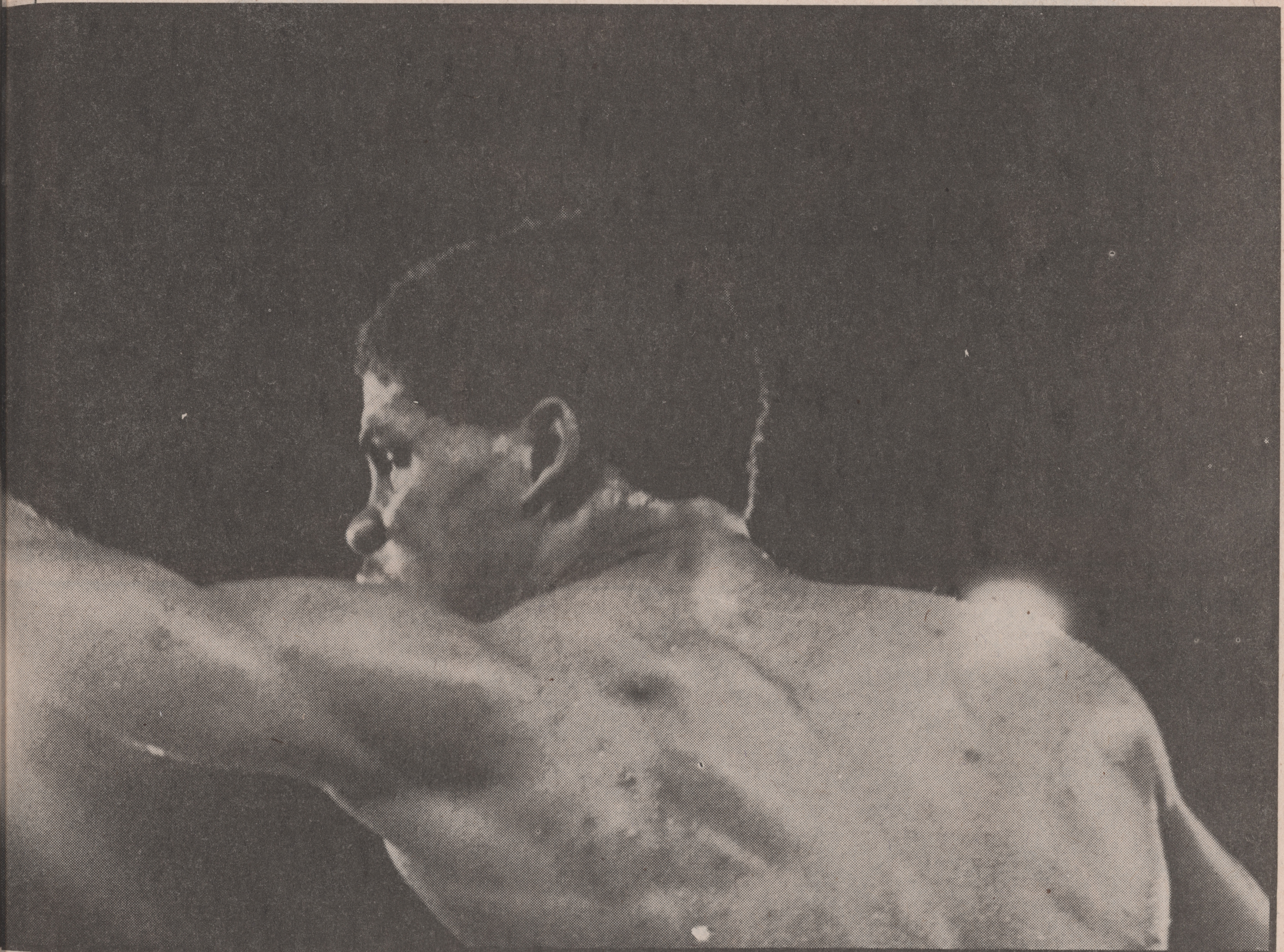


HOLLIS STEIN/DON KING PRODUCTIONS

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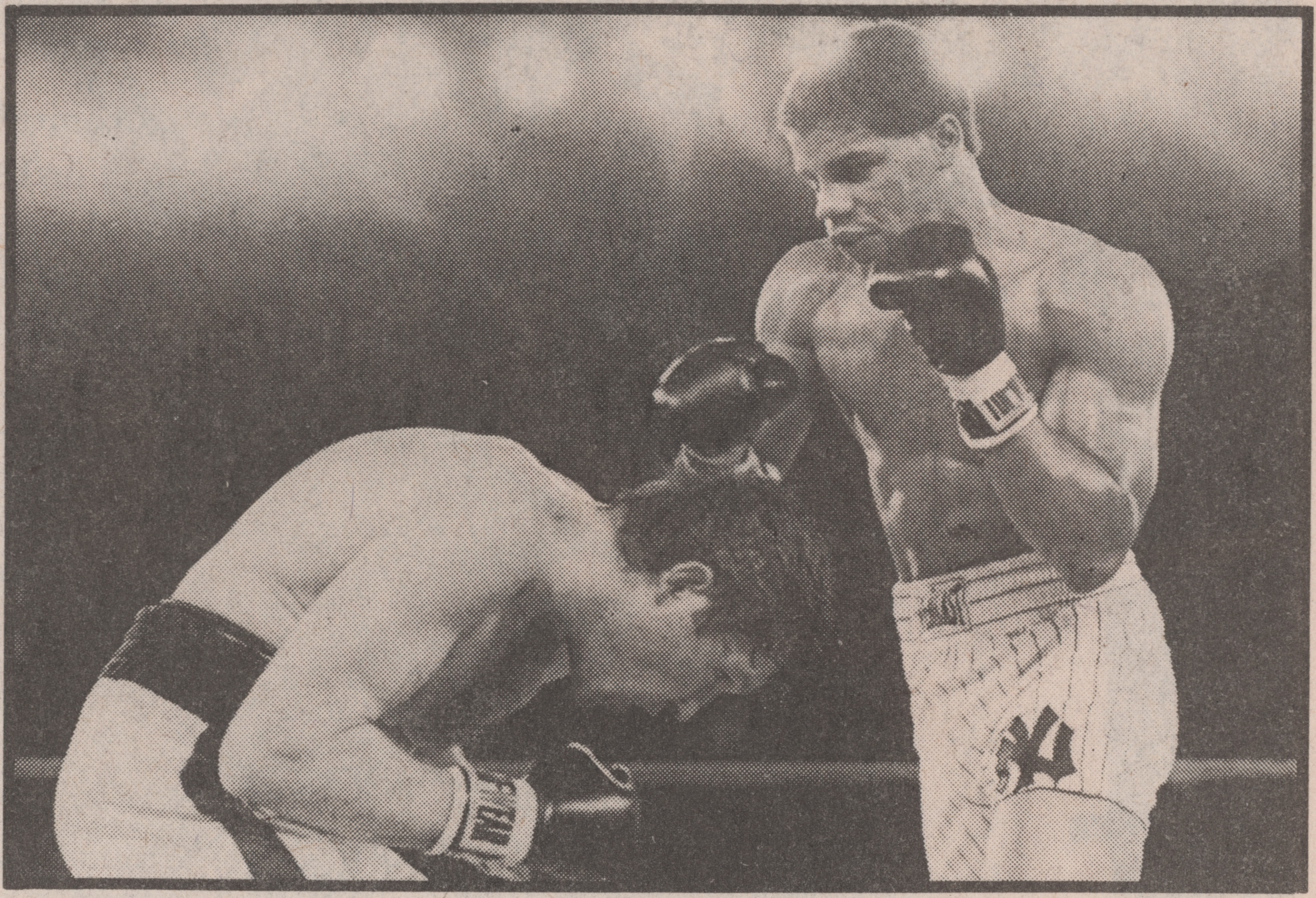




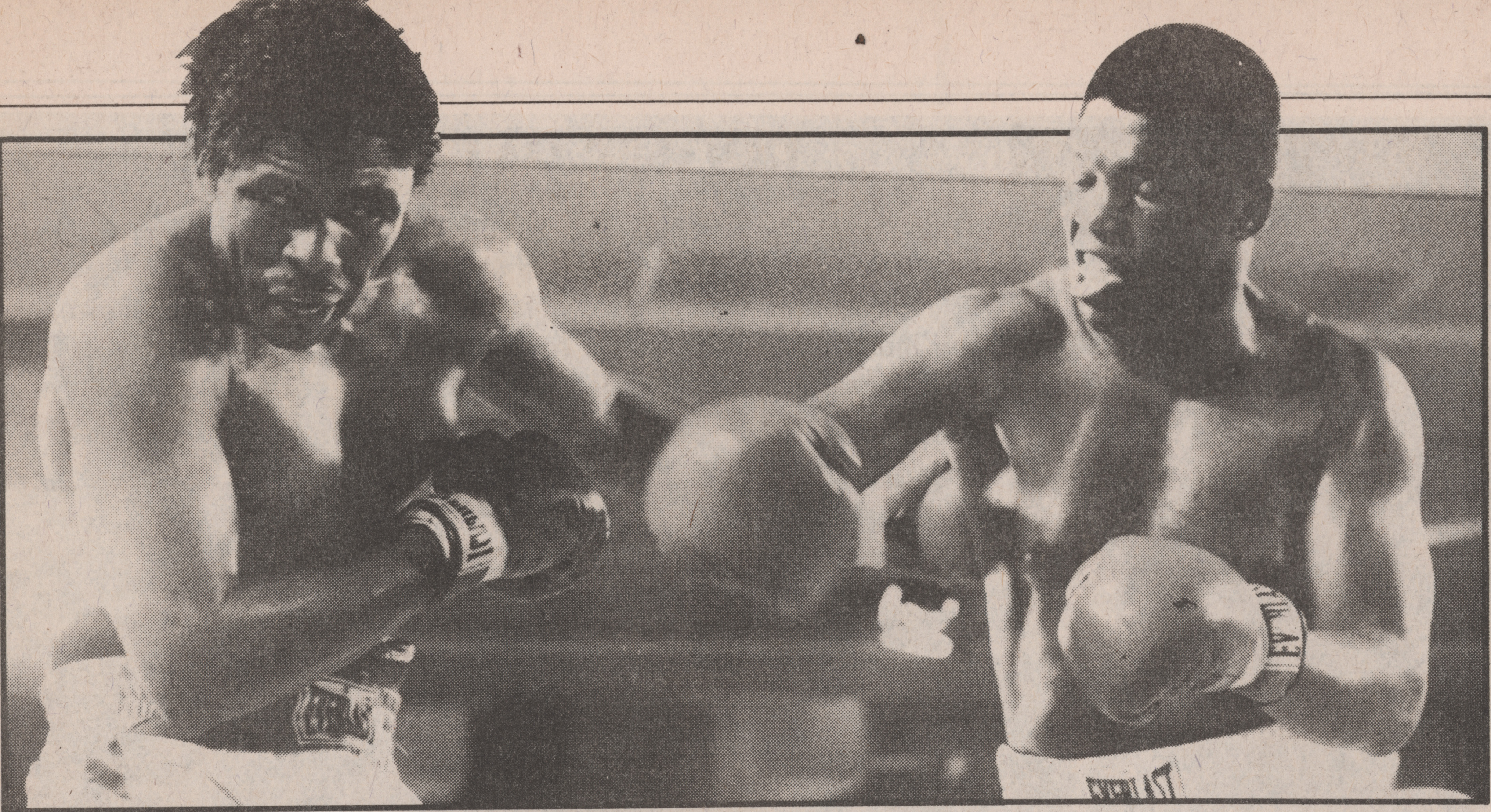


YANKEE GO HOME

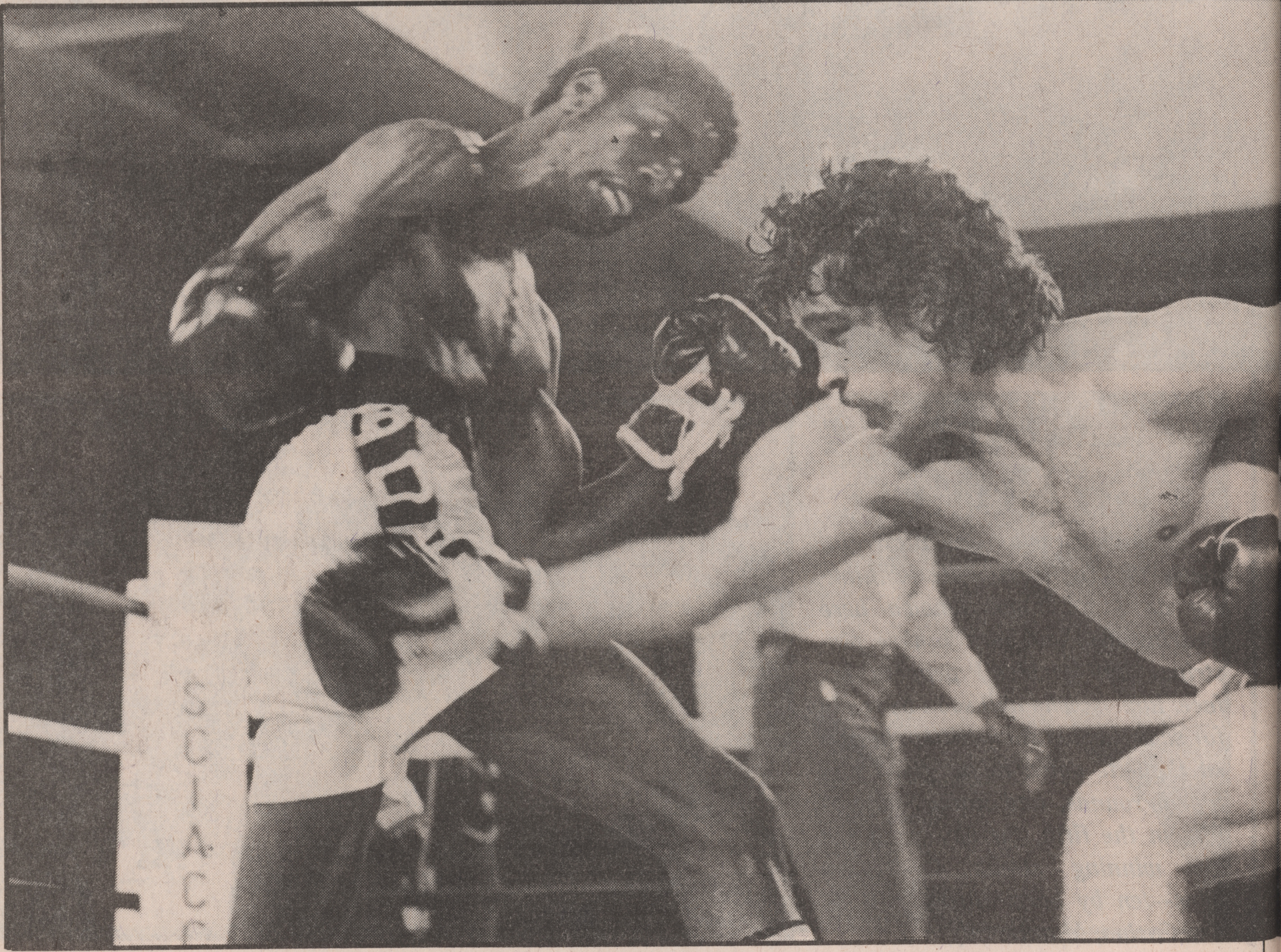
. . . Is probably what Canadian middleweight Wayne Caplette is thinking as Alex Ramos (shown here wearing the New York Yankee pinstripes and emblem) peppers his face. Ramos, who will soon be ready for some top-ten competition, knocked Caplette down in the third and fourth rounds, and finally stopped him in the fifth, thereby extending his winning streak to fifteen wins—ten by kayo. Harrah's Hotel and Casino, Atlantic City, N.J.

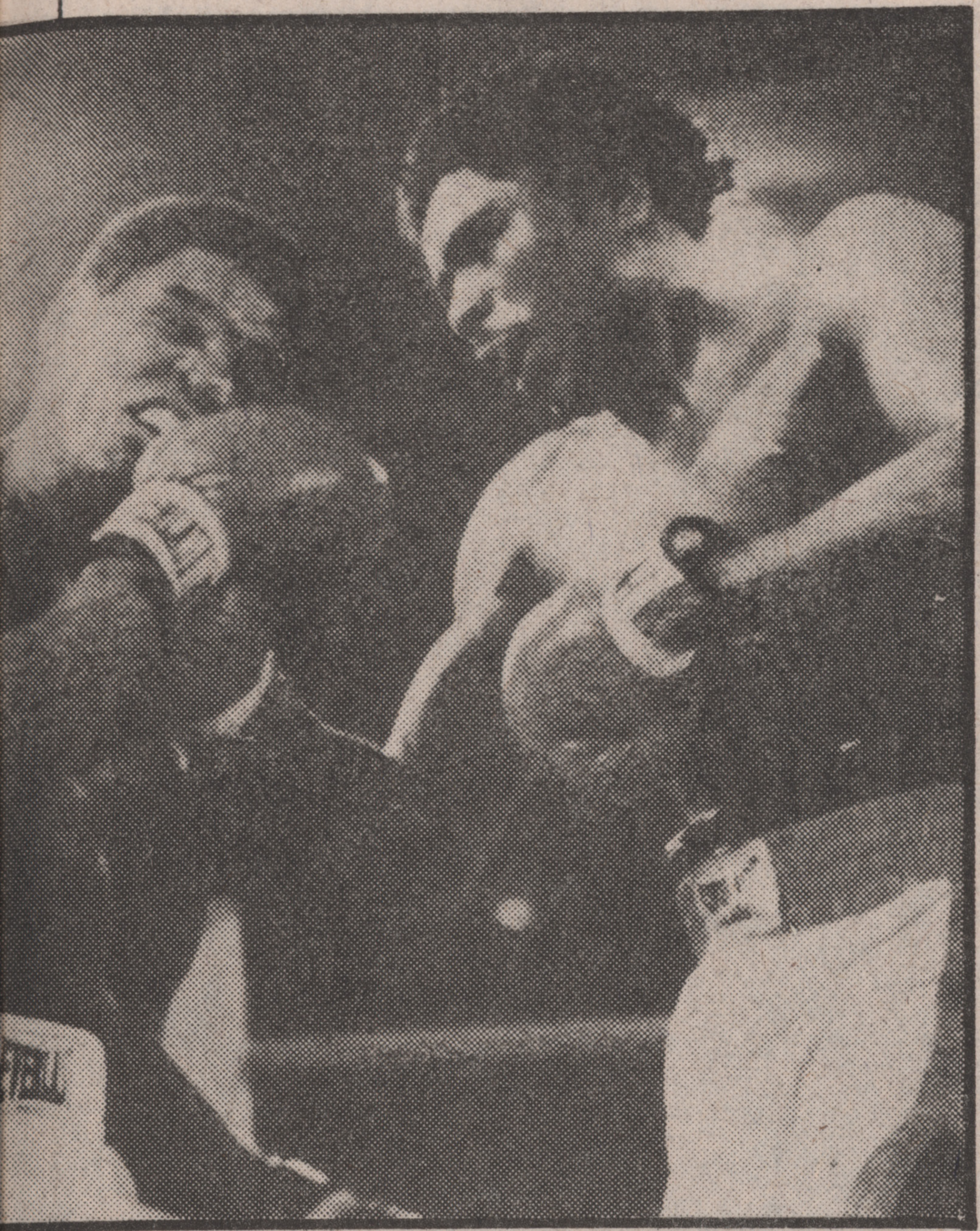


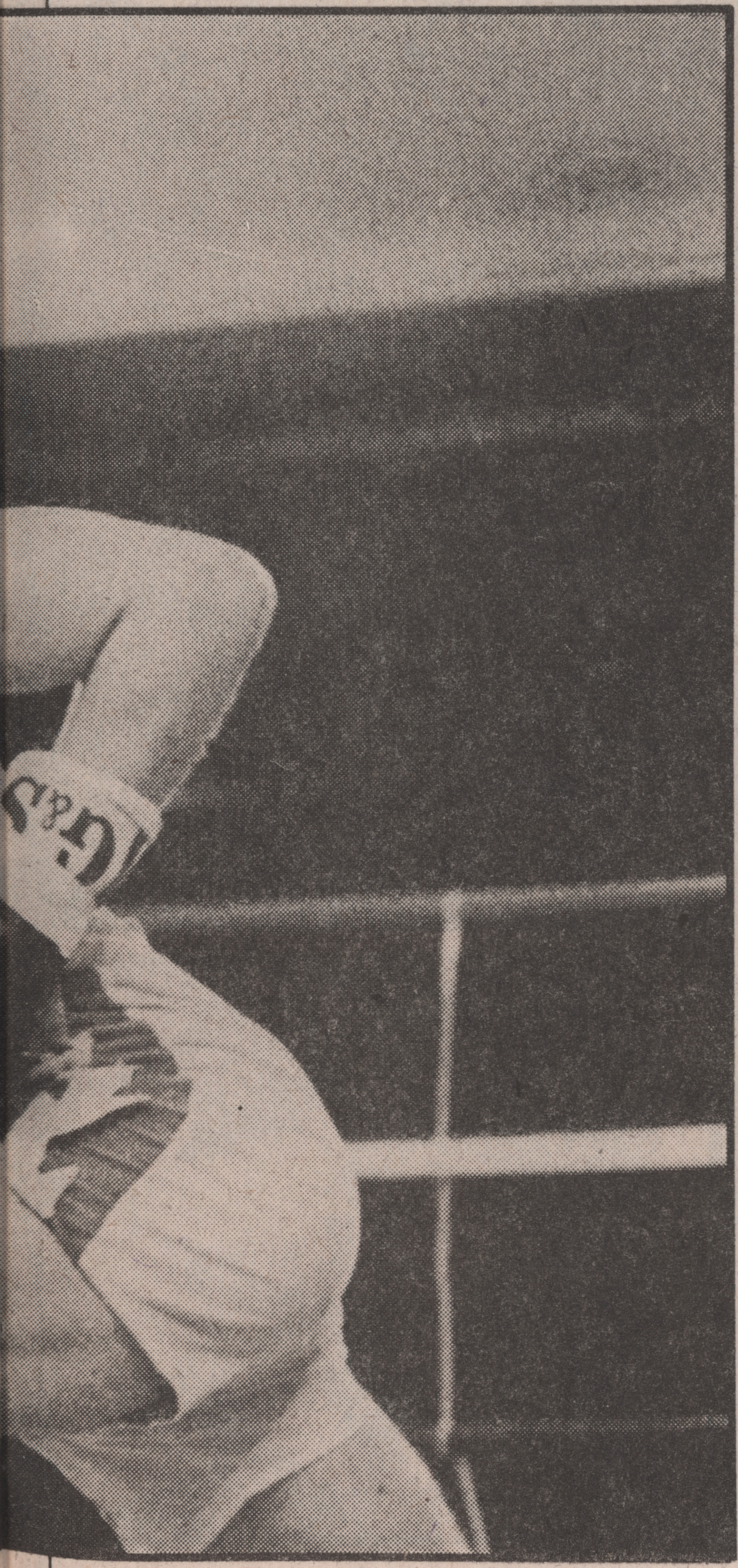
HOLLIS STEIN/DON KING PRODUCTIONS



SHELTON MINOR

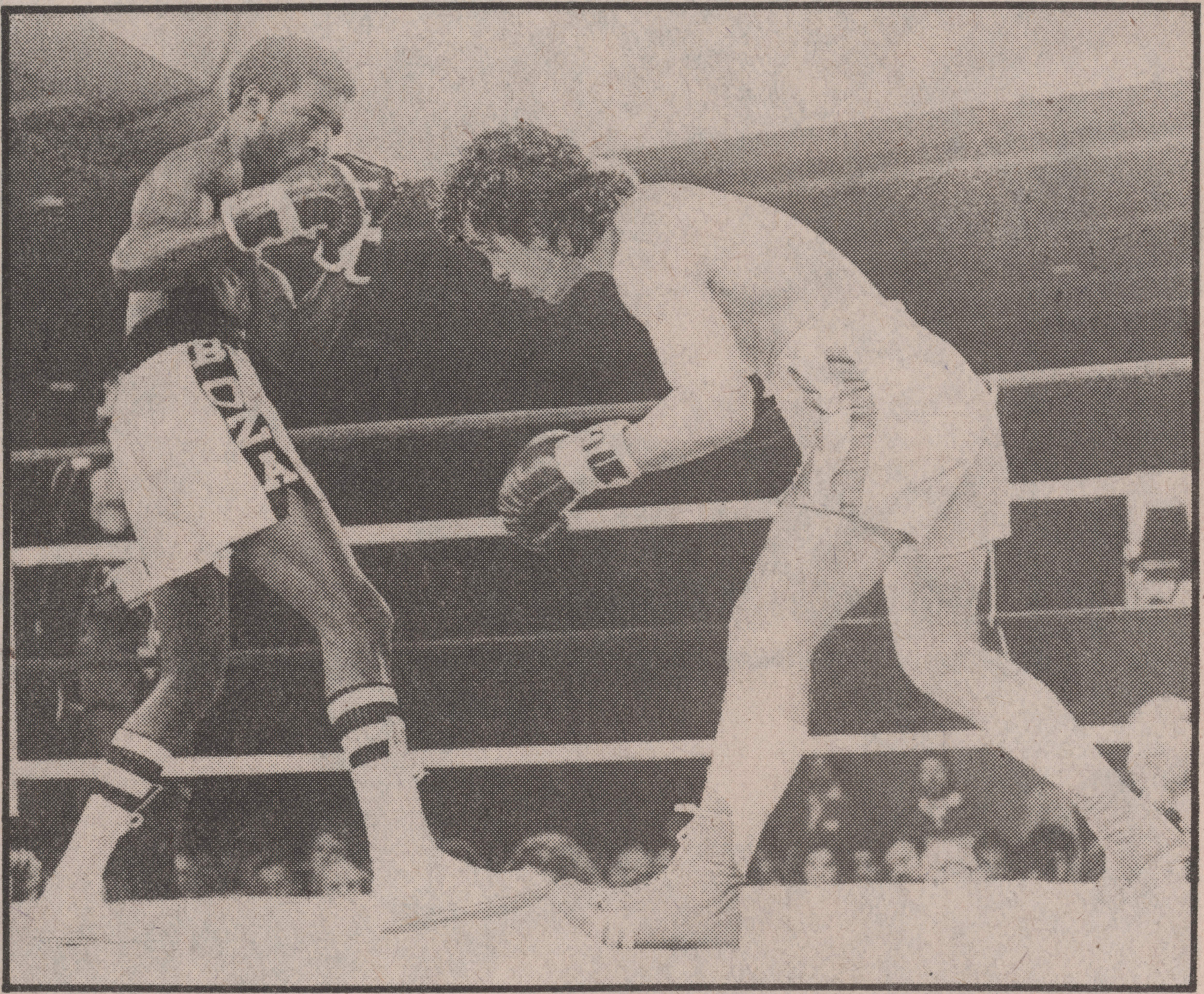






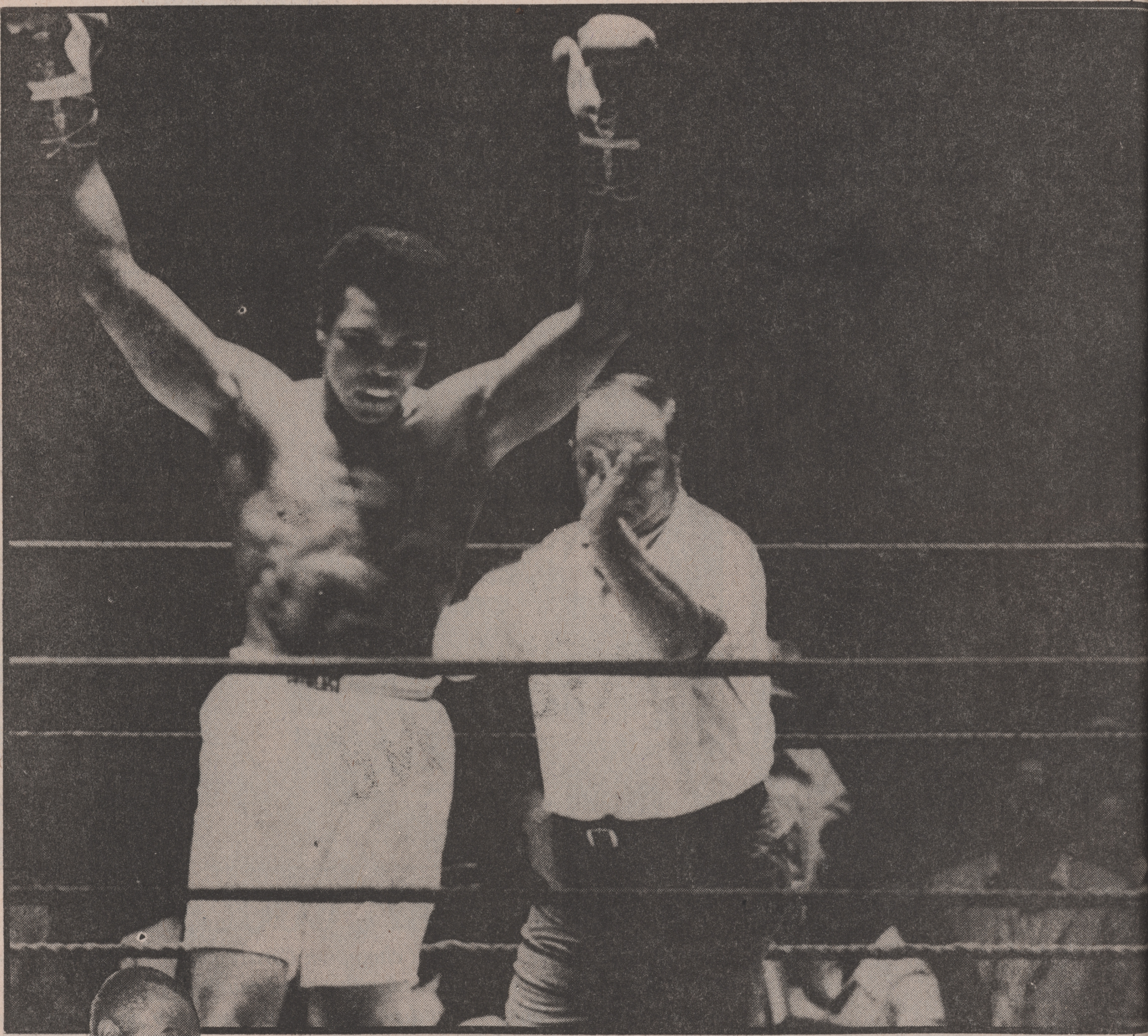
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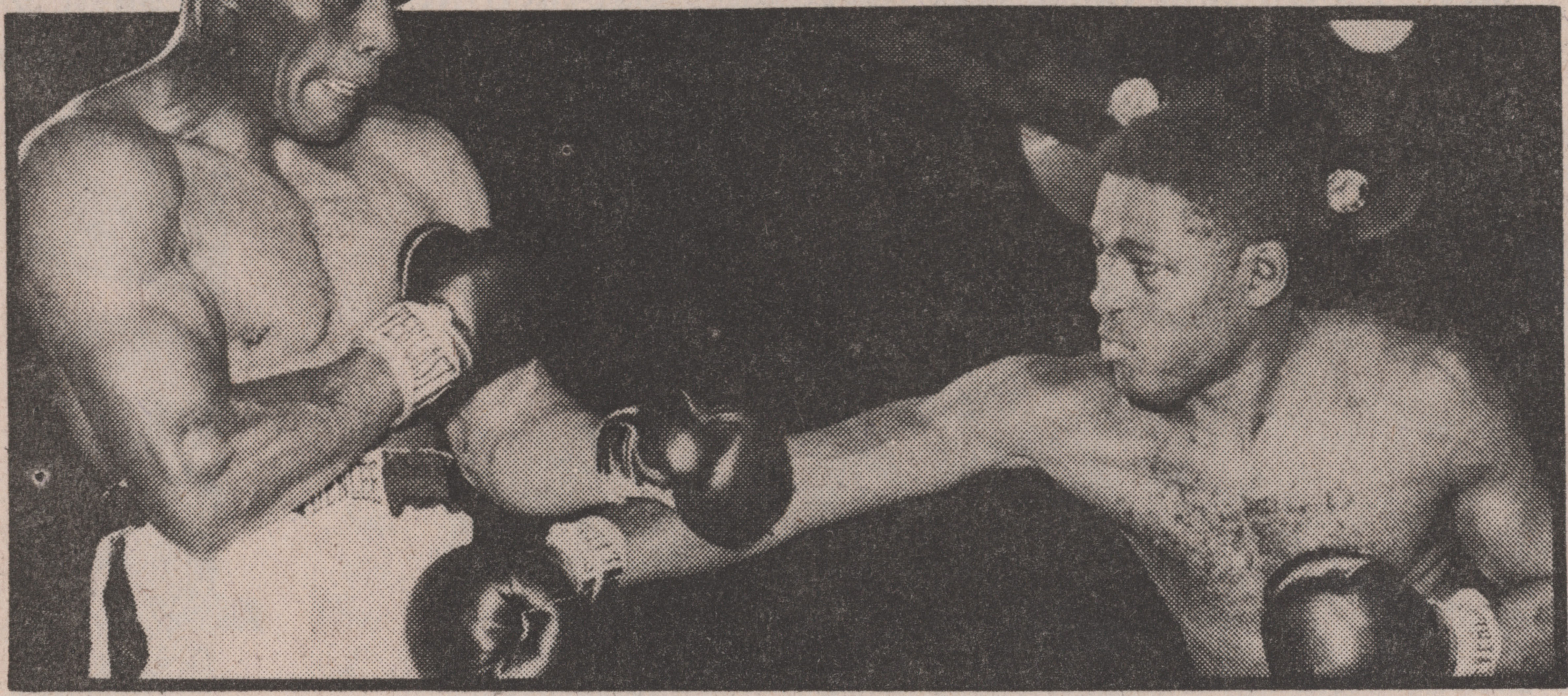
Greg Page, who recently abdicated his ranking the number two—and "leading available"—contender in the WBA ratings because he wouldn't be ready to fight for the championship until '83 proved why against Jimmy Young. The cagey veteran took everything Page had to offer as Greg won a twelve-round decision in defense of his USBA heavy, and we do mean "heavy" title. Playboy Club, Atlantic City, New Jersey. May 2, 1982.



"THE HEAT" COOLS OFF

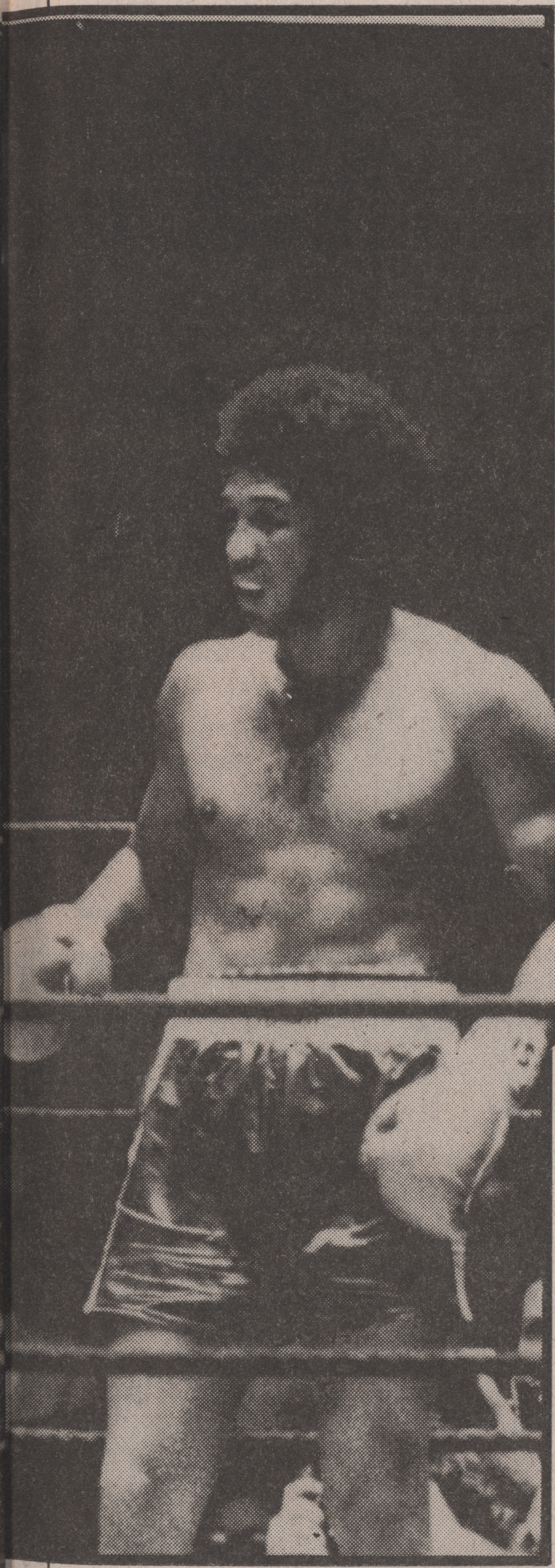
Former WBC junior lightweight champion Cornelius Boza-Edwards cooled off John "The Heat" Verderosa with a third round knockout of the previously unbeaten Staten Island phenom. Verderosa, who packs his own style, punch and fans, was never able to penetrate the classic style of Boza-Edwards, who dealt the free-wheeling "Heat" a boxing lesson. And a hyphenated knock-out defeat. Playboy Club, Atlantic City, New Jersey. April 25, 1982.

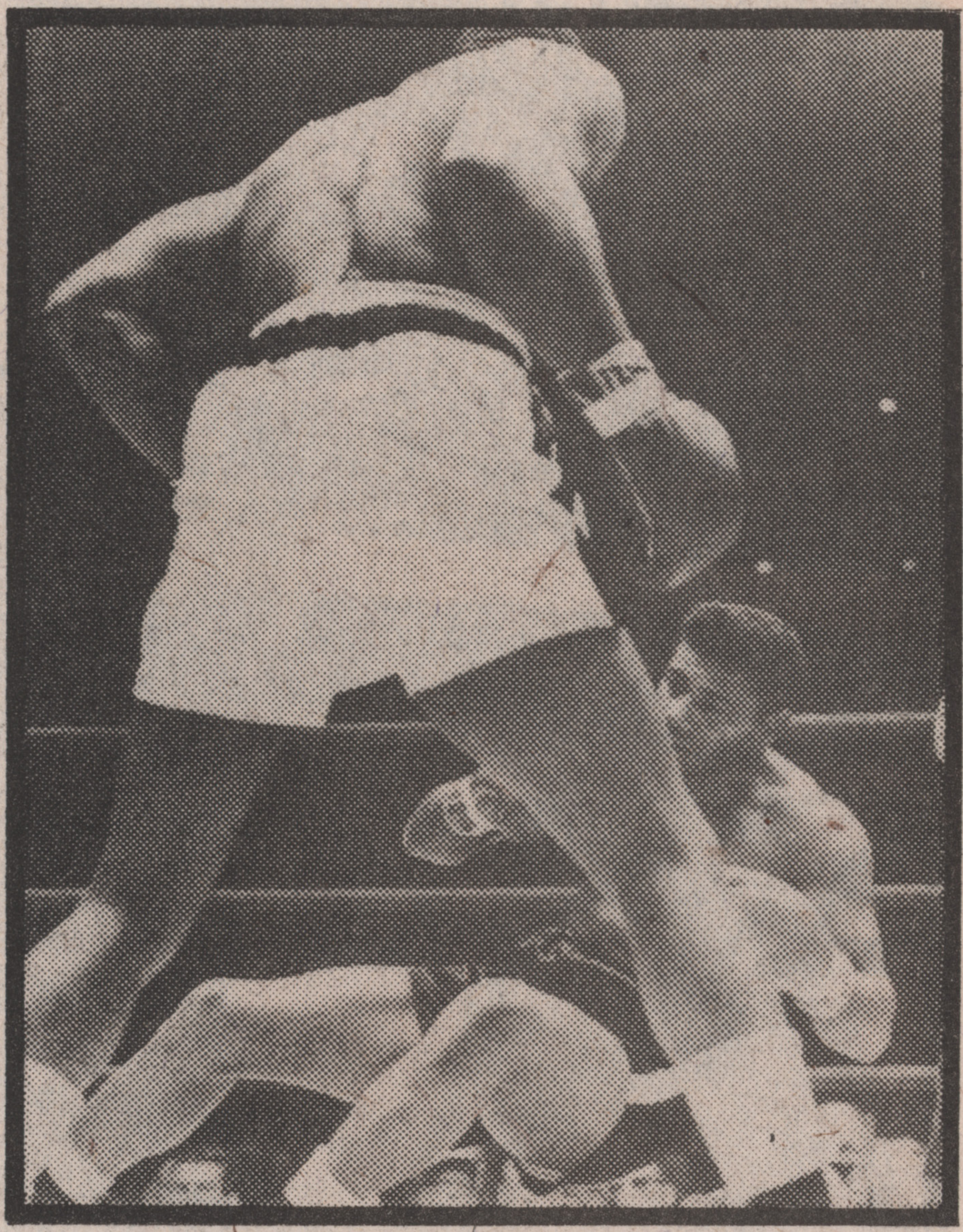


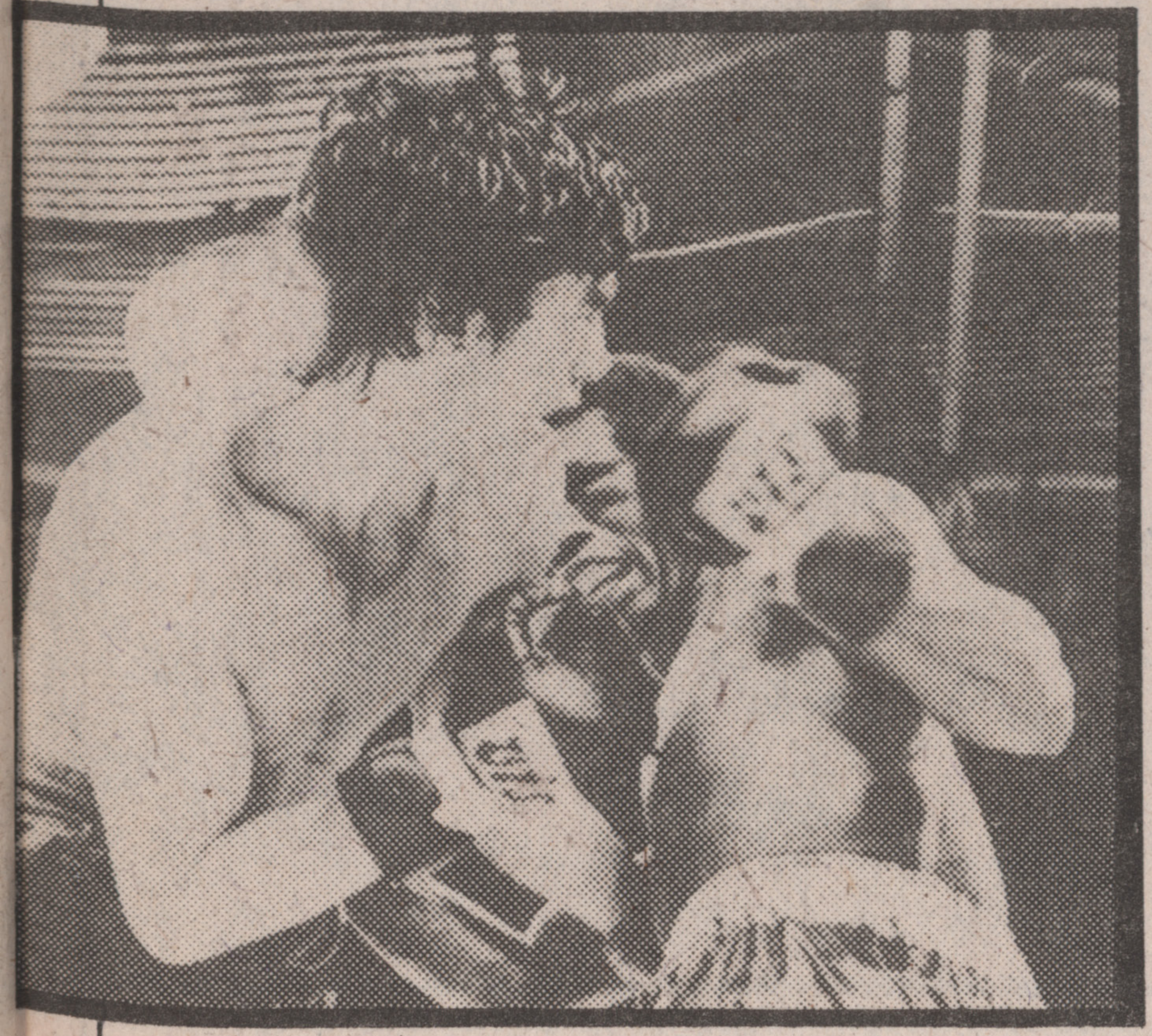


JULY FLASHBACKS

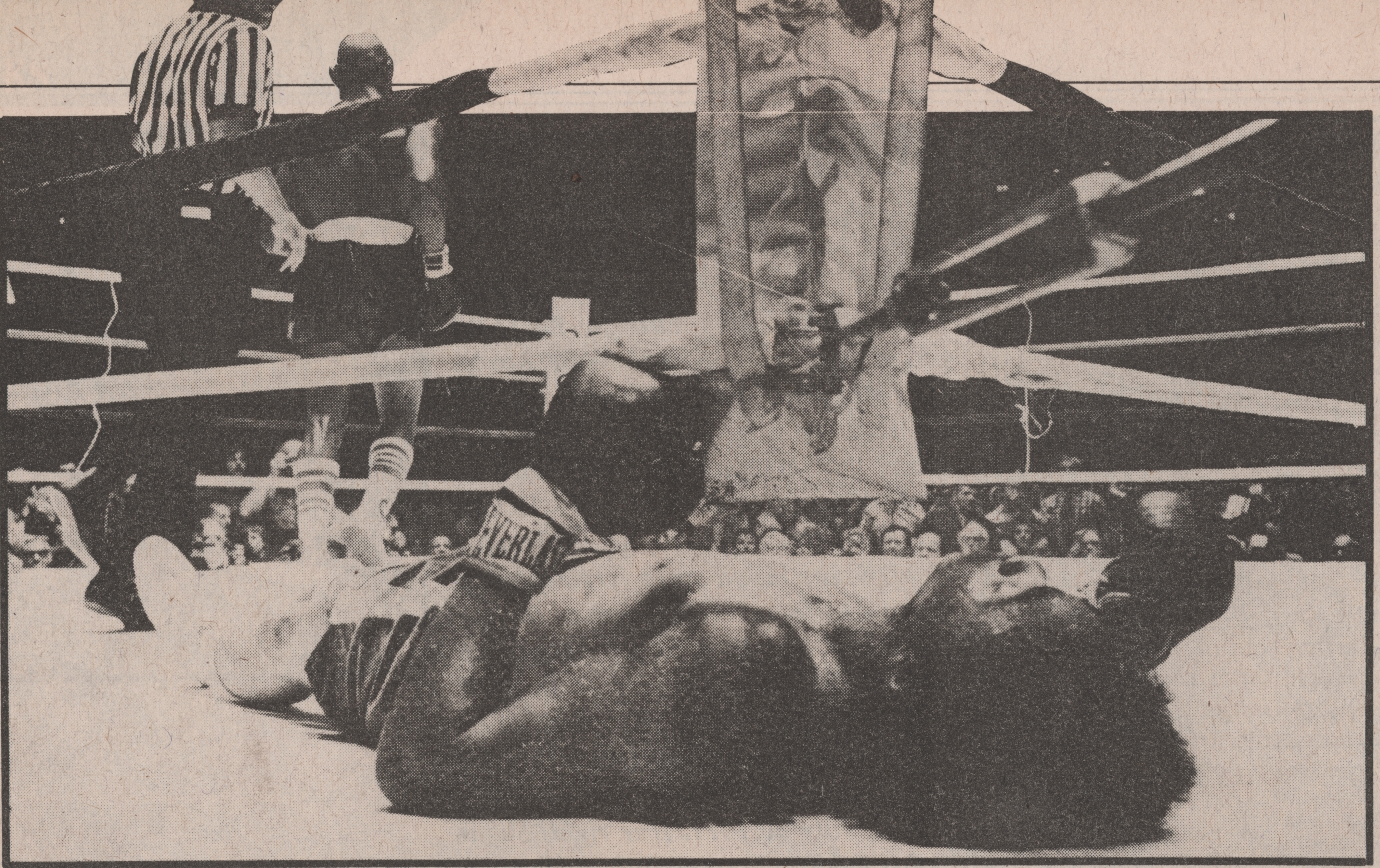
(Left): Muhammad Ali, on the comeback trail, stops Jimmy Ellis in the 12th round to win the vacant NABF heavyweight championship, Houston, July 26, 1971. (Bottom left) Jersey Joe Walcott wins the heavyweight title with a seventh-round knockout of Ezzard Charles, Pittsburgh, July 18, 1951. (Top right) Sonny Liston sends former champ Floyd Patterson to the canvas for the third and last time as he retains his heavyweight title, Las Vegas, July 22, 1963. (Bottom right) Carlos Monzon retains his world middleweight title in his last fight against Rodrigo Valdez, Monte Carlo, July 30,1977. (Far right) Sugar Ray Robinson successfully defends his welterweight crown with a hard-fought 15-round win over Kid Gavilan, Philadelphia, July 11, 1949.

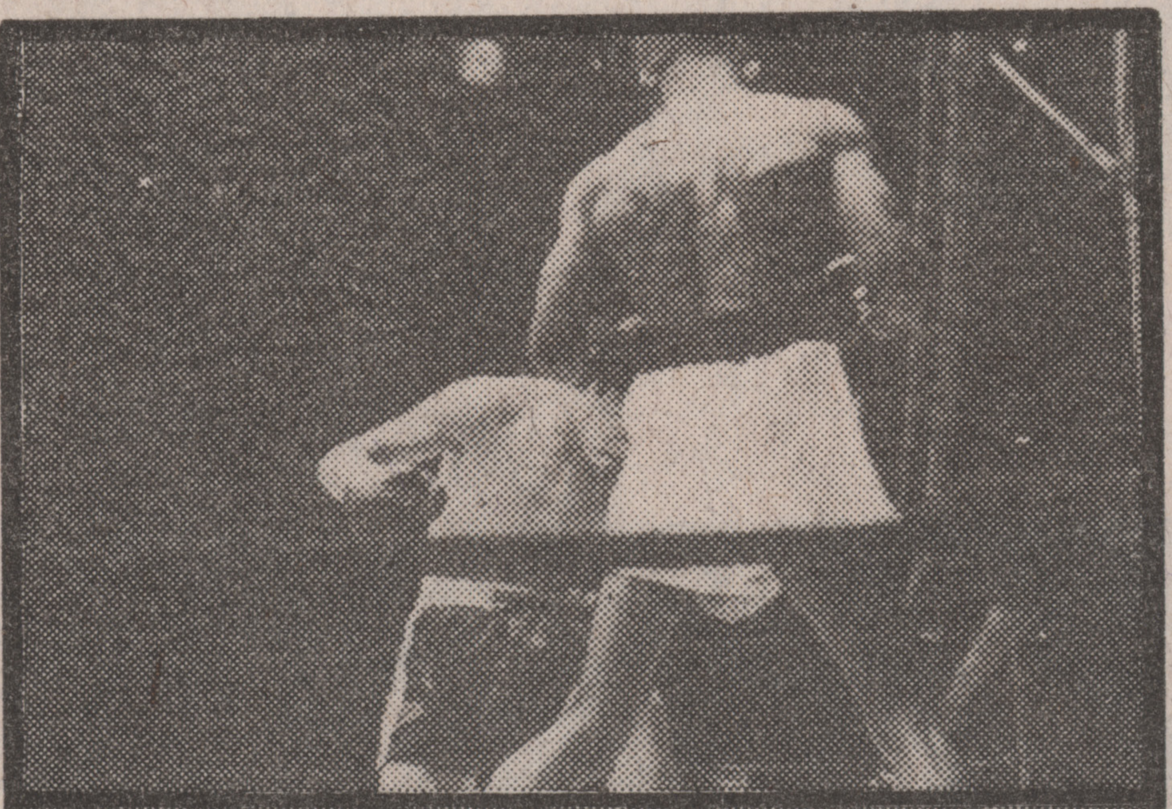


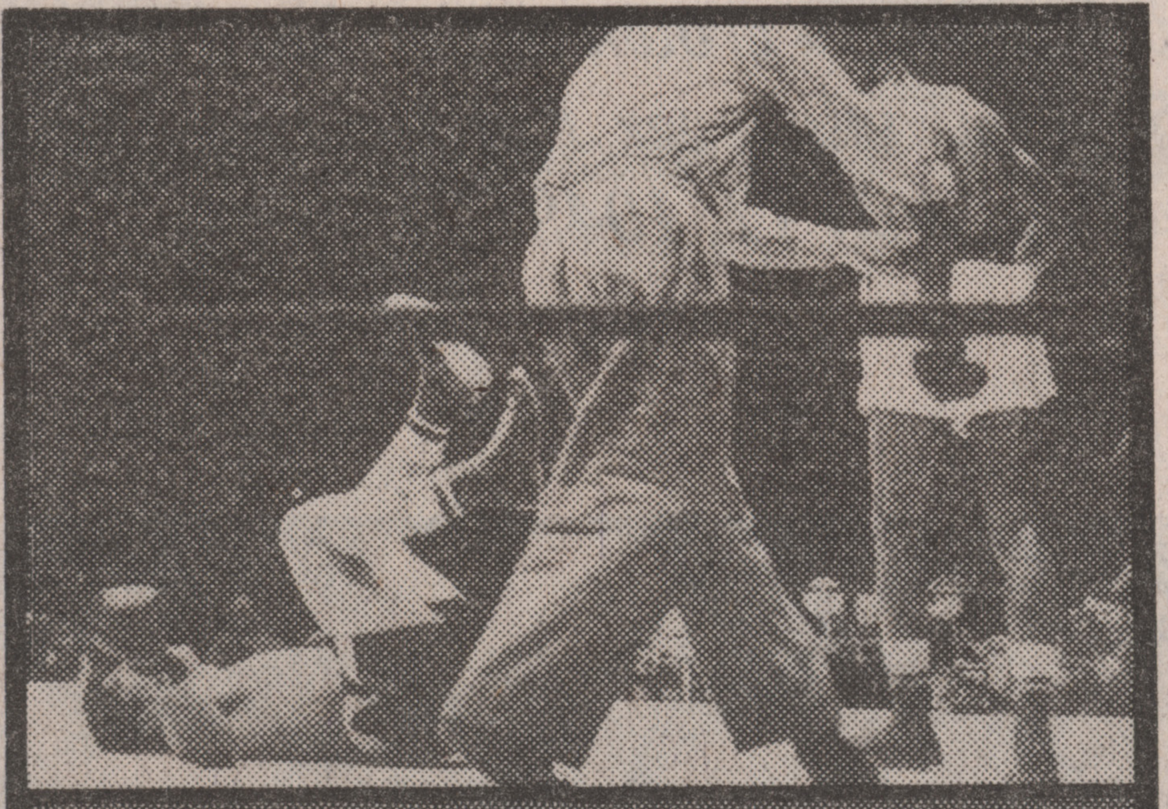


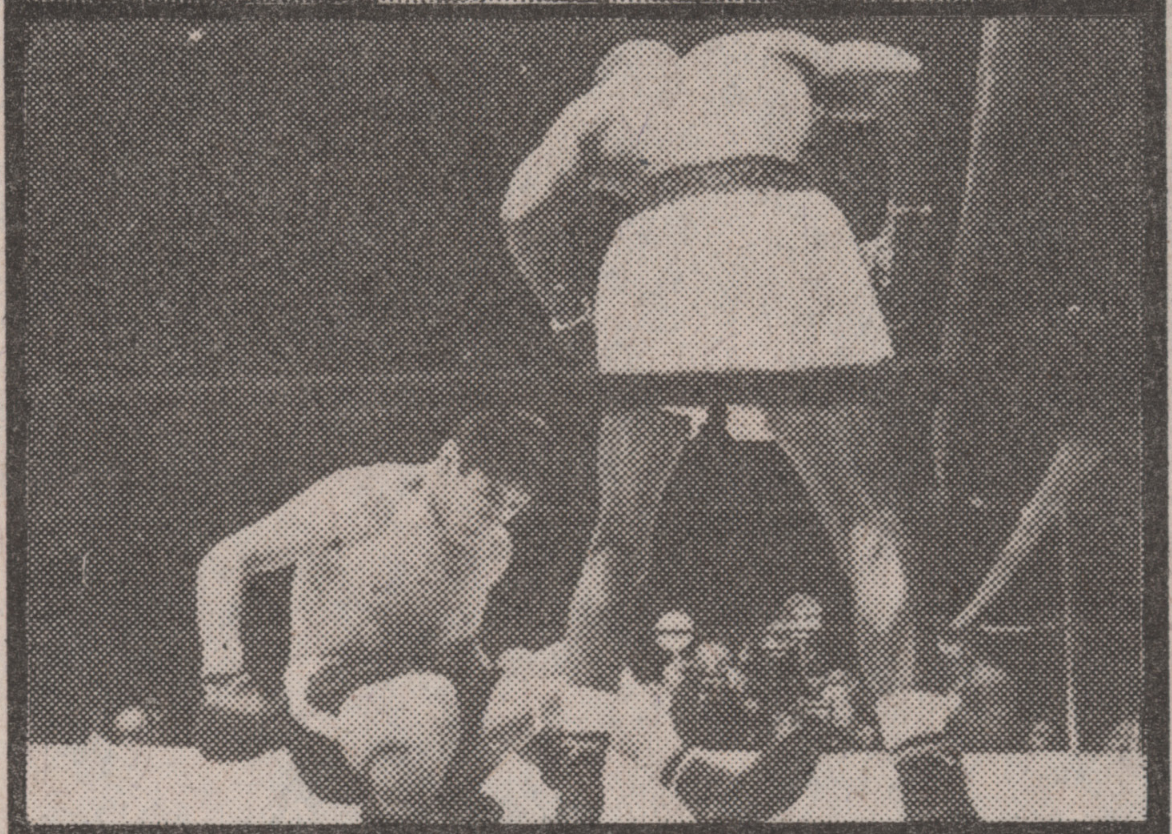


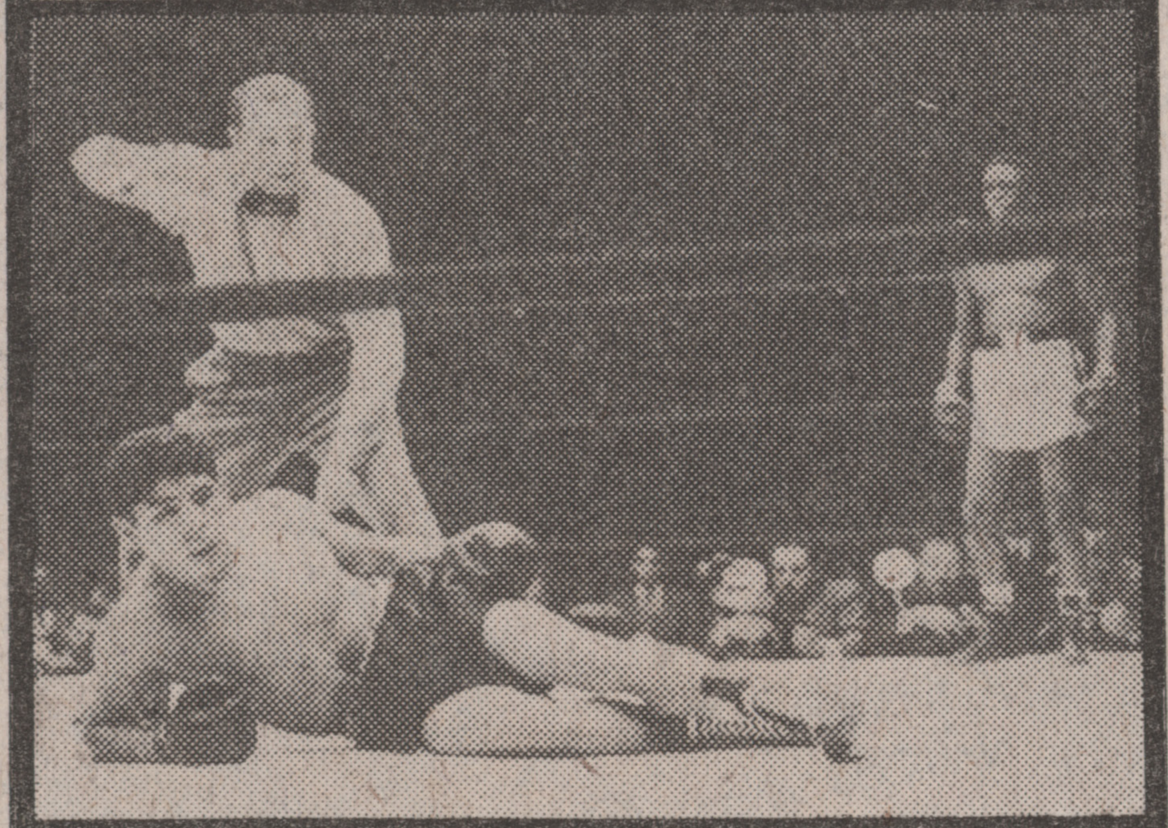


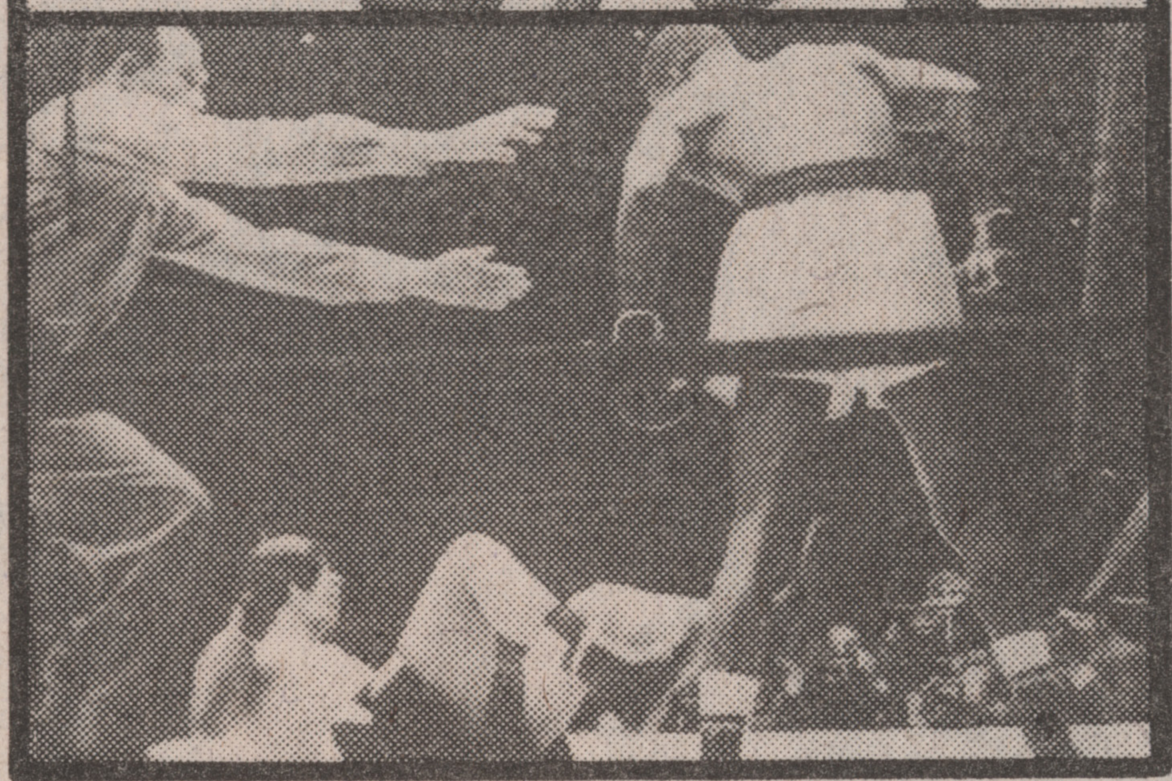


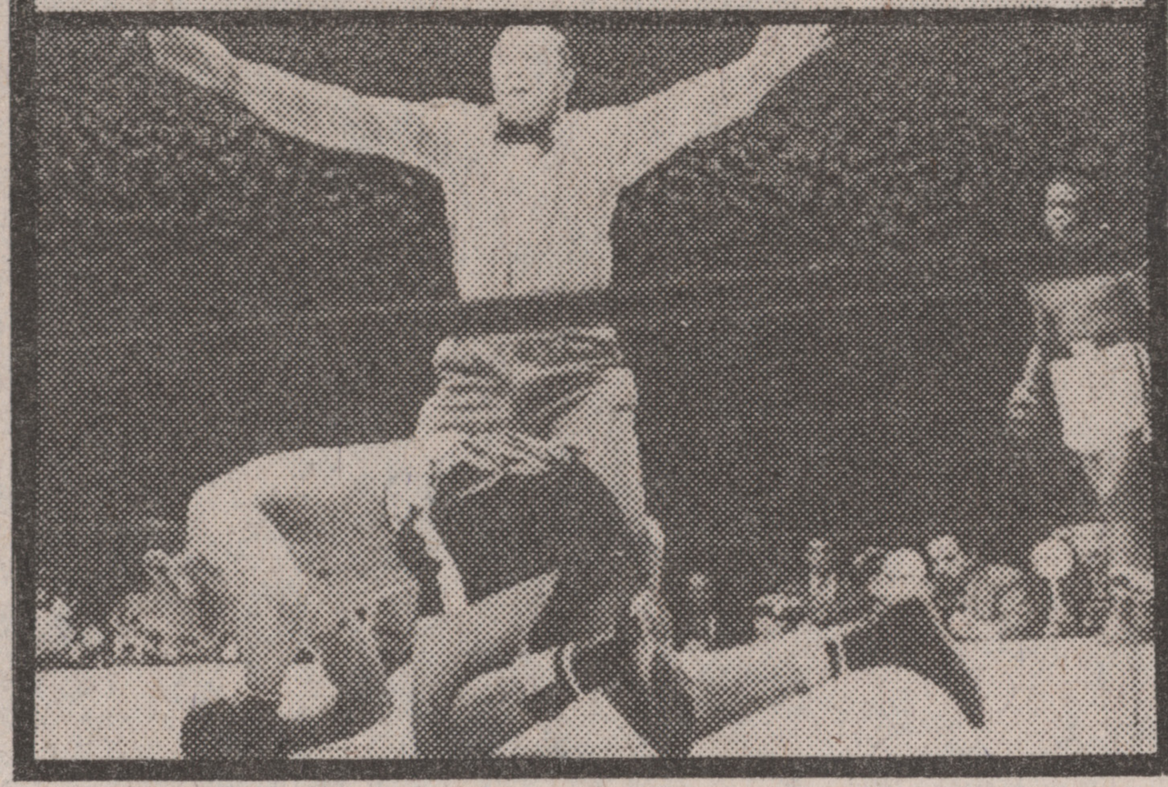


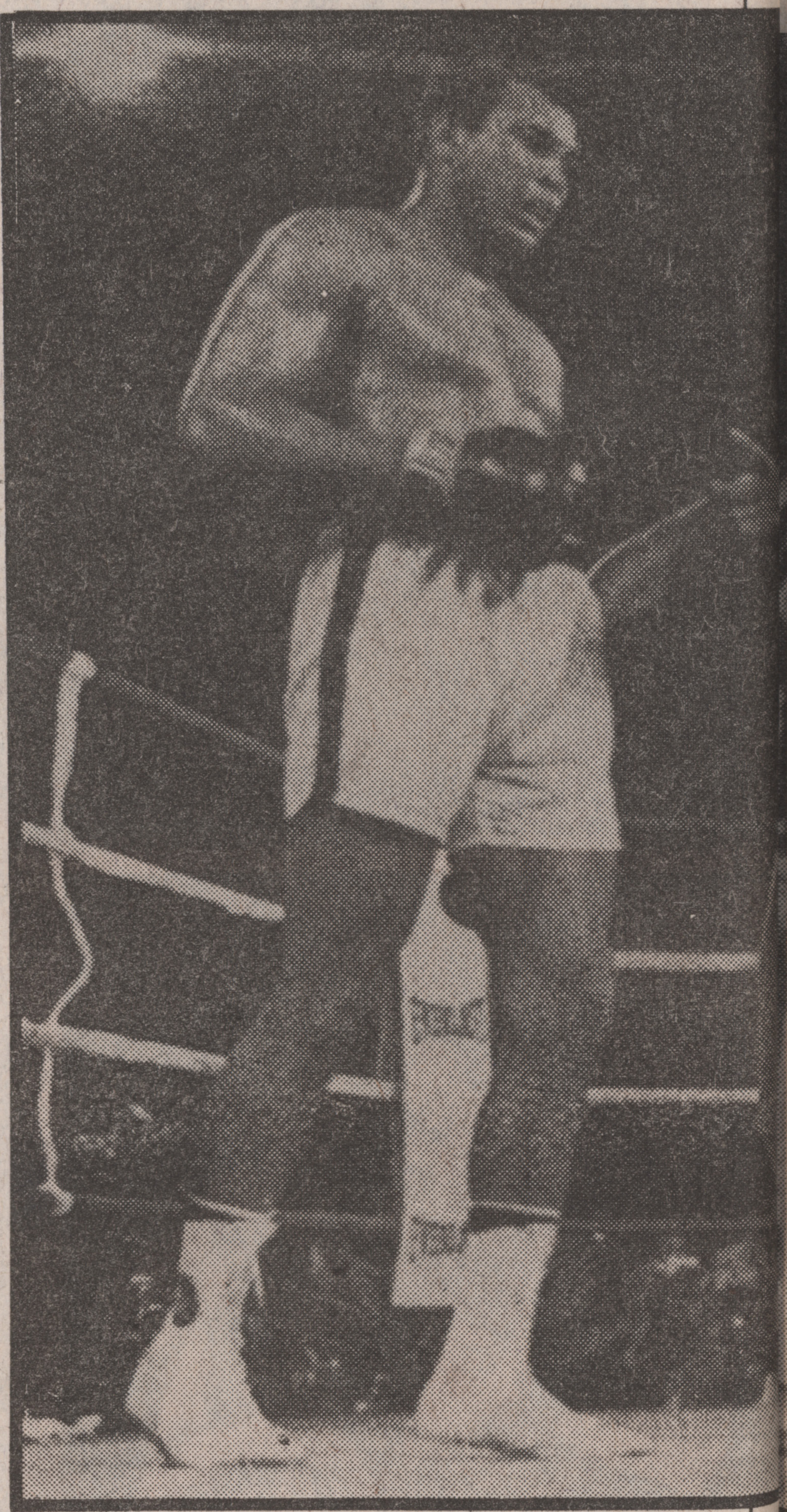






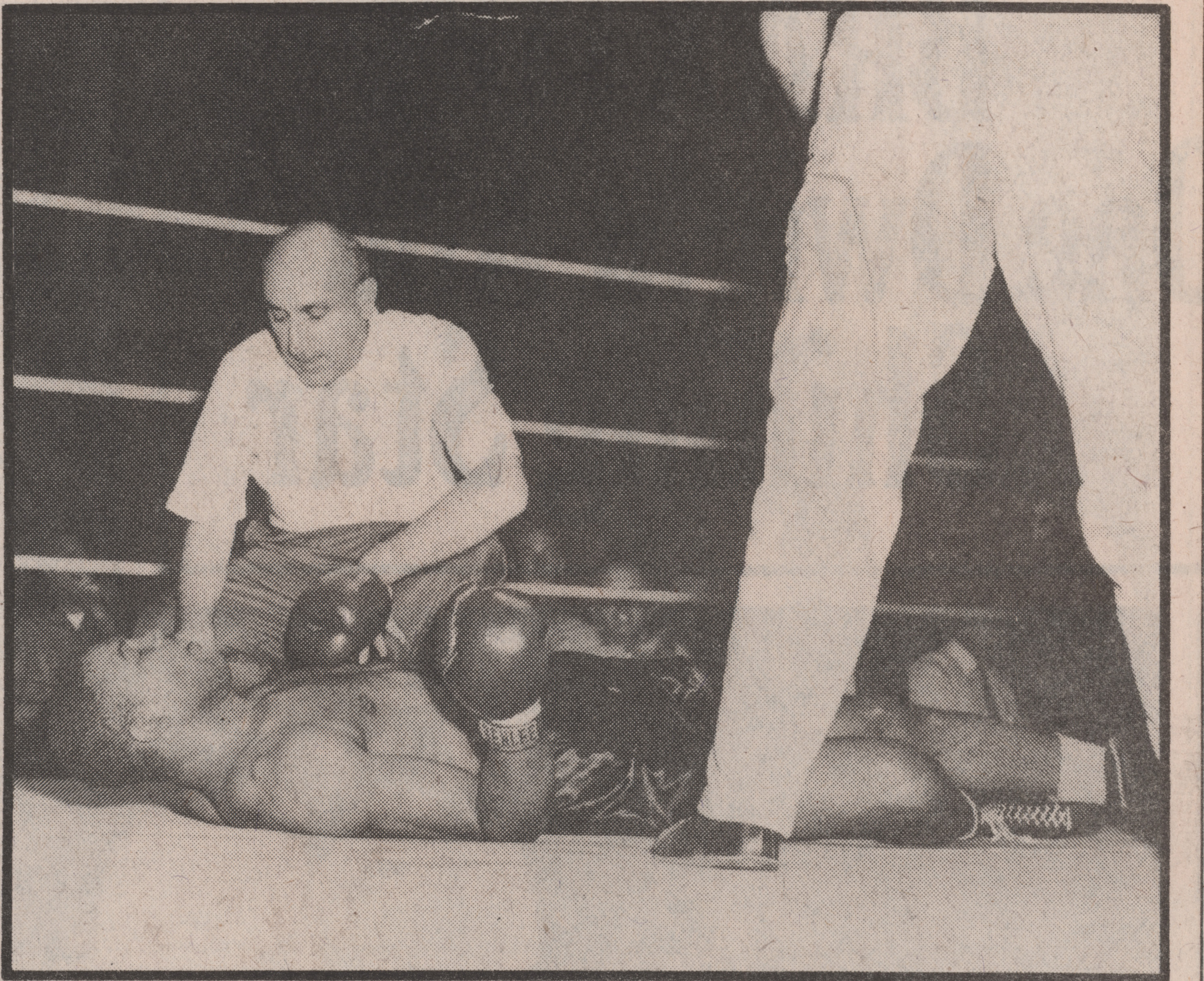


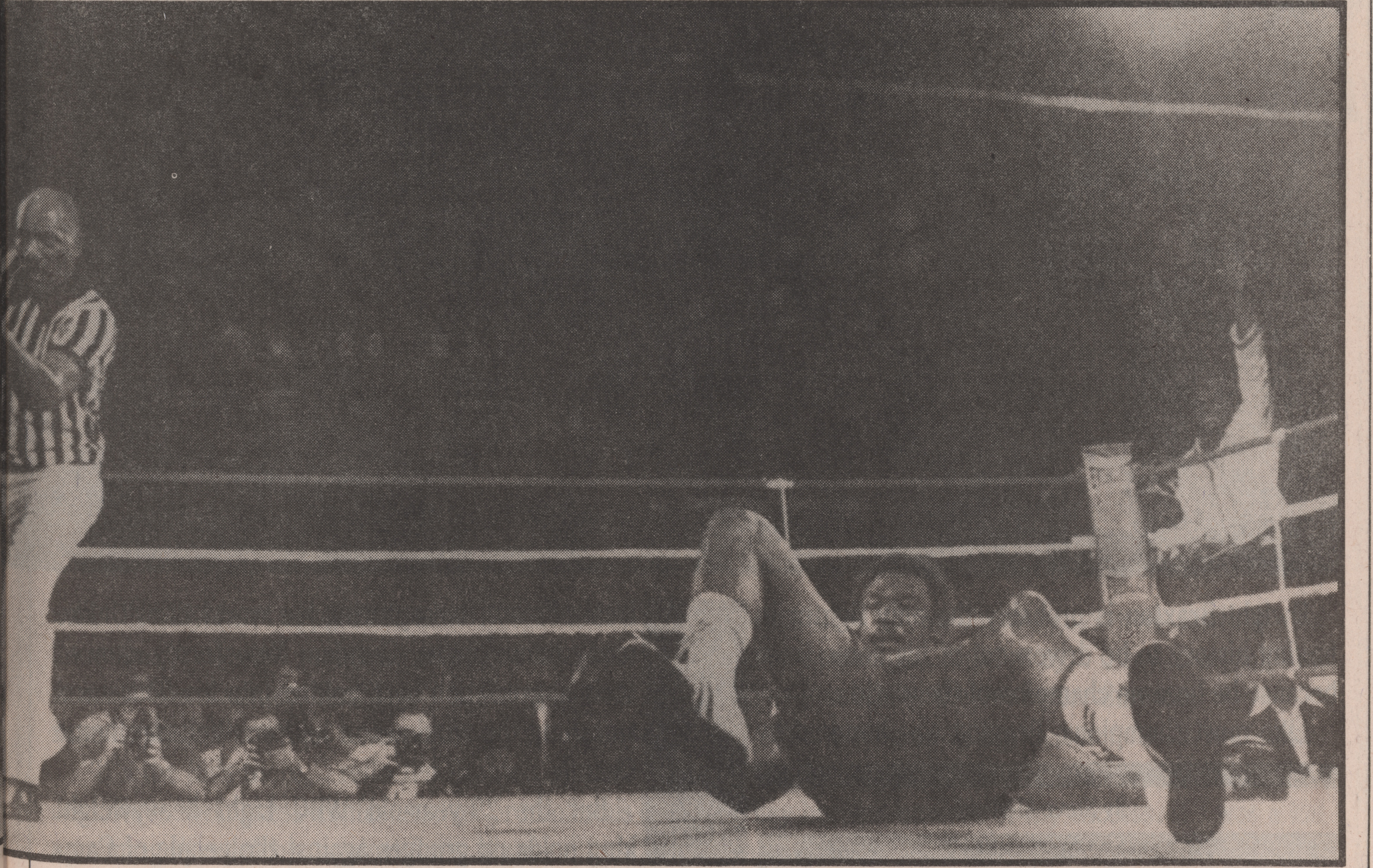




FALLEN FOES

(left) Marvin Hagler avenges one of his two losses with a second-round KO of Willie "The Worm" Monroe, August 23, 1977. (right top) Heavyweight John Golman shows after effects of one of Bob Satterfield's right hands in the first round of their scheduled 10-rounder, November 10, 1954. (bottom left) Lightweight champion Ike Williams knocks challenger Jesse Flores down for the fifth and final time in their title fight, September 23, 1948. (bottom right) "The Rumble in the Jungle" ends in the 8th round with Muhammad Ali knockin down the peviously invincible—and suddenly spent—George Foreman to win the heavyweight championship for the second time, October 29, 1974.





BRAXTON: One Dwight And Shining Star

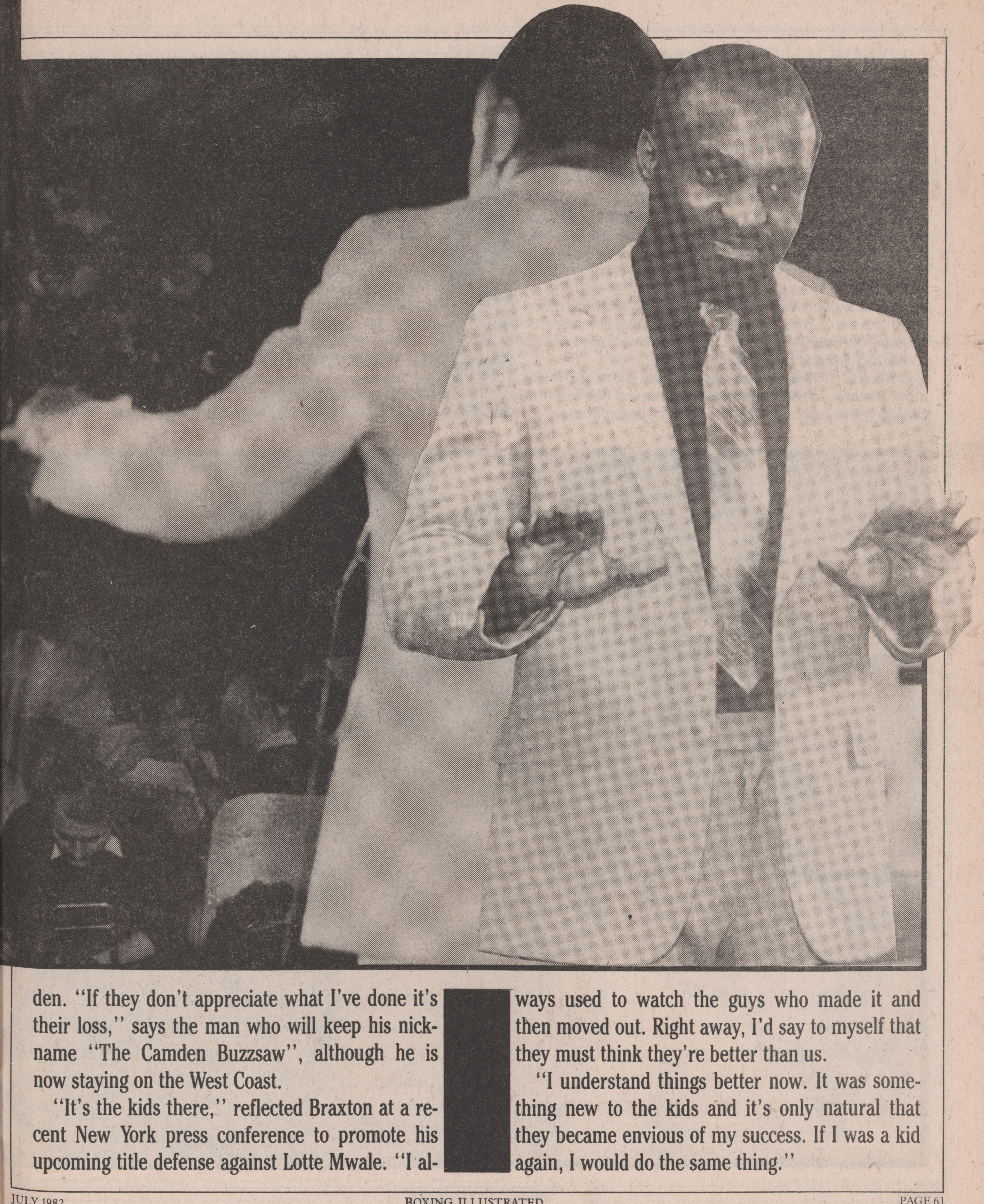


Dwight Braxton is probably the only fighter in boxing history to be driven out of his home town because he became champion of the world.

Like most champions, Braxton was honored by local officials for capturing the world title. Unlike many home towns, Camden, New Jersey showed their appreciation by breaking into his house and smashing the windows in his car. Welcome home Champ.

By Steve Medwid

But the 29-year-old WBC Light heavyweight king holds no grudges against the people of Cam-



den. "If they don't appreciate what I've done it's their loss," says the man who will keep his nickname "The Camden Buzzsaw", although he is now staying on the West Coast.

"It's the kids there," reflected Braxton at a recent New York press conference to promote his upcoming title defense against Lotte Mwale. "I always used to watch the guys who made it and then moved out. Right away, I'd say to myself that they must think they're better than us.

"I understand things better now. It was something new to the kids and it's only natural that they became envious of my success. If I was a kid again, I would do the same thing."

But what does an ex-con do with no amateur background? Standing at only 5'7", his sledgehammer arms, developed by pushing around 300 pound pieces of iron in a demolition company where he used to work, were enough to scare off any opponents.

But it was Dwight's physique that grabbed McCall's eye in 1977. McCall realized that Braxton was old for a beginner and too short to fight, but since Braxton's dad was a lumberjack, perhaps the kid could chop down trees like his dad.

Braxton turned pro in 1978 but by 1980 he fought in only nine fights and his earnings were a meager $5,500. $2,000 of that came when he traveled to South Africa to meet undefeated local hero Theunis Kok. Braxton had only one knockout in seven fights at the time and did not appear to pose as a threat to Kok. Braxton demolished him in the 10th round.

"I was sleeping and Qunezell said we're going to Africa, remembered Braxton. "I could come off a six day drunk and listen to him and win. The South Africans built their home boy up and I tore him down. They thought I was a ringer."

By the end of 1980, Braxton was nationally known and $11,000 richer thanks to an ESPN national cable tournament that he breezed through in four fights. He was now a Black and Decker Buzzsaw.

He rang in the new year in 1981 by avenging the only man to beat him, Johnnie Davis. Braxton won a tough ten round decision. He beat fading former WBA light heavyweight champ Mike Rossman on a national television and then returned to Rahway to beat fellow inmate James Scott.

By Christmas time, there was a new WBC Light heavyweight champion as he dethroned Matthew Saad Muhammad in the tenth round on December 19 in Atlantic City.

Now that Braxton has the title, he also realized the division is not that lucrative outside of possible fights with Saad Muhammad, WBA champ Mike Spinks, and Eddie Mustafa Muhammad. He defended his title once in Las Vegas in 1982 and cut down Jerry "The Bull" Martin in six brutal rounds.

When Braxton speaks of his past he tells it like it was. But the people he likes to sit around the campfire with and tell jail stories to are the kids, the same kids who drove him out of Camden.

He went on the TODAY Show to kickoff the "DWIGHT BRAXTON STAY IN SCHOOL CAMPAIGN." He toured the schools in Camden and then took his lecture campaign to the schools in Washington, D.C. And he pulled no punches.

You can't look beyond the walls," he told one group of kids. "You



walk around in the day, just going through the routine. But when you lay down at night and you start to think, you want to cry. You ain't talking no six or eight months. You're doing six or eight years with no break. Six or eight years out of your life—your young life. That's the precious thing that's been taken away from you. But in a way you took it away from yourself."

Perhaps he is getting through to some people. "I went back to Rahway the other week," he said at the press conference, "and the inmates were proud of me for not only putting the bully (Scott) into hiding, but for what I did after that."

"Like I tell everyone, when I was in jail, I got sick of the old life and went the religious way. The only person I fear is the Creator."

Braxton now looks around him and sees the people close to him still getting into trouble. His brother Tony, a middleweight contender, had a serious drug problem earlier this year and asked Dwight for drug money.

"I threatened to go to the commission on him," says Dwight. "It wouldn't hurt me if Tony went to jail. I can only help myself, not take anybody by the hand."

But the champion without a home town will not ignore the problems of Camden, he's just taking a new approach. "You'll notice that all the people who are trying to help Camden don't live in the city. So just like judges, lawyers and politicians, I will do my part to help them from outside of Camden."

When Dwight Braxton was a kid, he did do the same thing and he got caught. The first time at age 14; the last time when he was almost 20.

He had spent 5½ years in the slammer for armed robbery and was an alumnus of Rahway State Prison in New Jersey. With no amateur background, he embarked on a pro boxing career and was 1-1-1.

Unfortunately, Braxton was not limiting the power in his fists to people in the ring and he stood crying before criminal court judge Peter J. Corruzzi for a possible conviction of 15 years for assault and battery. His managers, Quenzell McCall and Wesley Mouzon, begged for a second chance.

As the saying goes in boxing, Dwight got a home town decision—five years probation.

"When he walked out of my courtroom he never lost another fight, never stepped one inch out of line," Coruzzi would later say.

"Seven years of my life wasted," said Braxton. "I will not waste another minute."

□



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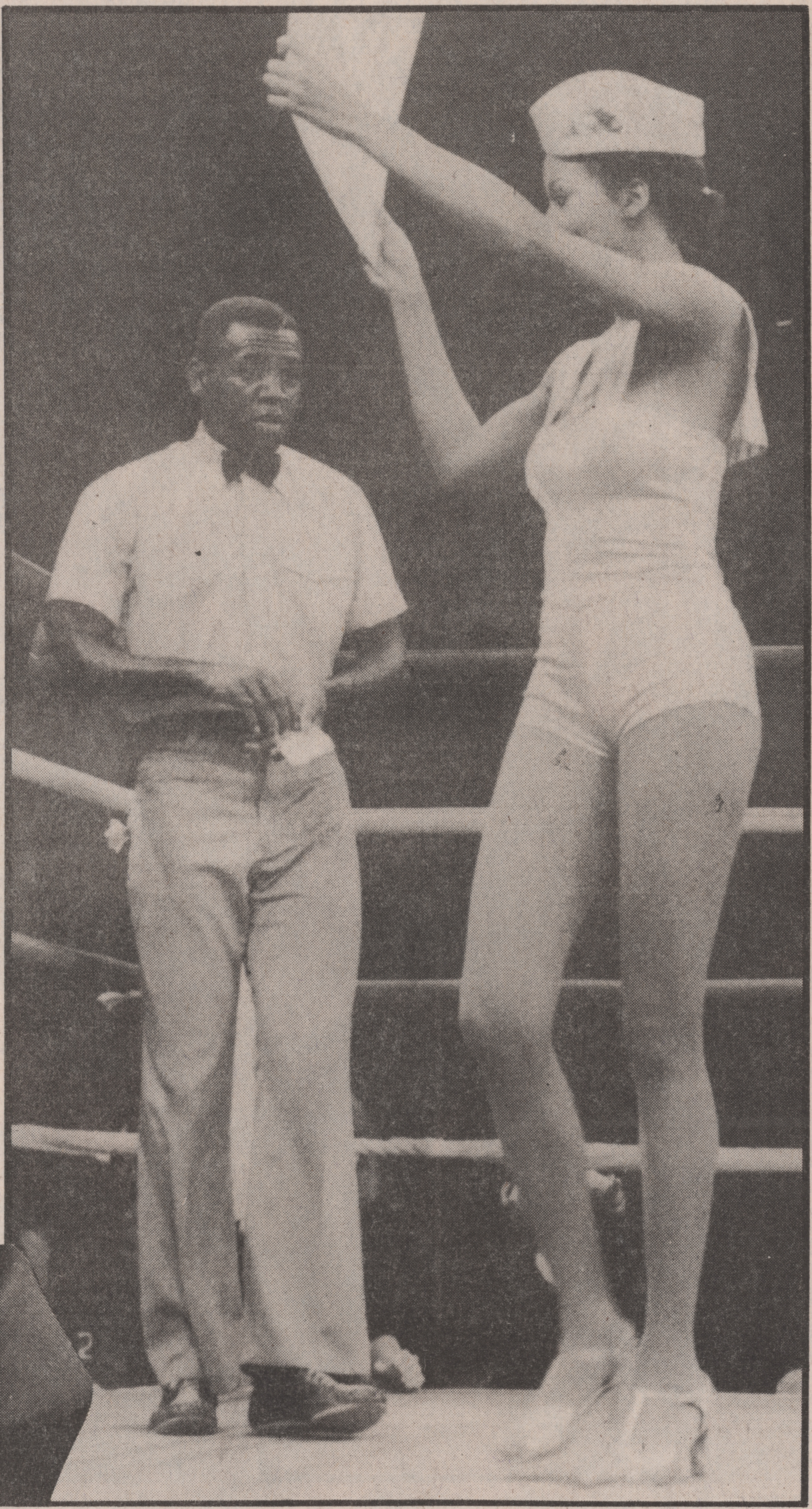
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PICTURE PUNCHLINES
By Bill Gallo
HOLMES-COONEY
LEONARD-STAFFORD
WEA COBB
HAGLER-HEARNS
BRAXTON-MWALE
1982
POSTPONEMENTS
NOTHING NEW ABOUT THIS RASH OF BIG FIGHTS DELAYS— THROUGH THE YEARS, THE PRINCIPALS HAD TO WAIT FOR WHEN THE TIME WAS RIGHT— FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER.
THE JAMES J. CORBETT-BOB FITZSIMMONS TITLE BOUT FINALLY CAME OFF AFTER TROUBLES IN ARKANSAS AND DALLAS— THE POLICE IN BOTH SITES STOPPED IT. AFTER TWO YEARS, FITZ CAUGHT UP WITH CORBETT IN CARSON CITY IN 1897 AND TOOK THE TITLE ON A 14-RD. KO.
MUHAMMAD ALI WAS INVOLVED IN TWO POSTPONEMENTS— IN 1964 A HERNIA OPERATION DELAYED HIS 2ND BOUT WITH SONNY LISTON— THEN, IN 1974, A CUT ON FOREMAN'S EYE PUT THAT ONE ON THE SHELF FOR MONTHS— ALI WAS A WINNER ON BOTH OCCASSIONS.
WORTH THE WAIT— I HELD THE CROWN UNTIL 1902.
SADDEST DELAY WAS WHEN MARCEL CERDAN HAD TO WAIT FOR JAKE LAMOTTA FOR THEIR RETURN IN 1949— CERDAN NEVER MADE IT WHEN HIS PLANE WENT DOWN IN THE AZORES.
Bill Gallo


4
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